THE LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PASSED. THE BATTLE LINES HAVE BEEN DRAWN. THE OPENING SHOTS HAVE BEEN FIRED. NOW, AS THE CONTROVERSIAL SUPER HERO REGISTRATION ACT CONTINUES TO DIVIDE AMERICA'S SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY, TONY STARK – HEAD OF THE PRESIDENT'S SUPER HERO TASK FORCE – HAS CREATED THE CIVIL WAR FILES, IN-DEPTH DOSSIERS ANALYZING THE POTENTIAL THREAT POSED BY THE NATION'S MOST PROMINENT SUPERHUMANS. WHAT DOES STARK KNOW ABOUT CAPTAIN AMERICA? CAN THE COMMISSION FOR SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES BE TRUSTED? THE CIVIL WAR FILES ARE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S PRIMARY SOURCE OF SUPERHUMAN INTELLIGENCE! FEATURING...

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ANTHONY FLAMINI

WRITERS
STUART VANDAL, RONALD BYRD, MADISON CARTER, MICHAEL HOSKIN, CHRIS BIGGS, MARK O'ENGLISH & MIKE FICHERA

COVER ARTISTS
STEVE MCNIVEN, DEXTER VINES & MORRY HOLLOWELL

EDITOR
JEFF YOUNGQUIST

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Since the dawn of civilization, Earth's governments have been at odds with their superhuman populations. In the 30th century B.C., during Egypt's First Dynasty, the Clan Akkaba cast a disfigured youth into the desert to die — a mutant child who would come to be known as En Sabah Nur, and later, Apocalypse. In the 15th century, King Ferdinand himself ordered that an entire Inhuman colony in Seville be thrown into the underground realm of Subterranea during the Spanish Inquisition. And even during the 20th and 21st centuries, many world governments, including our own, clandestinely cooperated with the Weapon X incarnation of the Weapon Plus Program, which experimented on mutants in an attempt to transform them into living weapons.

So it's no surprise to me that the United States Congress ratified the Superhuman Registration Act (HR 421). What I do find surprising is that previous incarnations of the legislation, and the first Mutant Registration Act, were narrowly defeated. Looking back at the events of the past decade and the frequency of instances in which senators, congressmen, and other aspiring politicians were either killed, kidnapped, or harassed by unregistered superhumans, it's a wonder why Congress did not pass these laws sooner. Senator Wilbur Wycombe (D-CA) was kidnapped and killed by the lethal experiments conducted by superhuman research scientist Dr. Laurence Railsback (a.k.a. Brew) in Northern California's Freedom Science Study Institute. Senator Leon Warkovsky (R-NC) was implanted with a mind-controlling parasite by the super-villain Power Broker (Curtiss Jackson), who also happened to be the same villain responsible for the death of Senator Eugene Kligger Stivak (D-NY) years earlier. And those are just a few examples. Even Canadian legislators had no problem passing similar legislation, although their version of the Registration Act was eventually held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Only a small minority of congressmen, led by fervent mutant rights activist Senator David Thompson (D-MA), voted against the act. It just so happens to be an election year, and the Stamford disaster, combined with other recent events such as *Xorn's attack on New York, Kang's attack on Washington D.C., and the Hulk's rampage in Las Vegas, were still fresh in* the public's mind and sent them over the edge with superhuman paranoia. With public opinion quickly shifting and many political careers hanging in the balance, the Superhuman Registration Act had liberals such Senator Roger Dutton and staunch conservatives such as Senator Harrington Byrd shaking hands and forming coalitions for the first time in years. Both sides of the aisle were determined to see this bill pass so they wouldn't be perceived as "soft on super heroes."

The United States government's interest in controlling its superhuman population is nothing new. Although allied together at the behest of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the Invaders of World War II worked very closely with the American military once the United States fully entered the European Theatre in 1942. Over ten years ago, when Reed Richards' unauthorized space flight returned to Earth, ushering in a new age of super heroes, the Fantastic Four were quarantined by the U.S. Air Force. Although certain Pentagon officials sought to place the team under the umbrella of the military, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Walter White ensured that the Fantastic Four were not co-opted by the government. Shortly afterward, even my own attempts to found the Avengers met with government interference, as Special Agent Murch of the National Security Council sought to place us under Pentagon control in exchange for A-1 security clearance.

Do I trust our government's ability to license, deputize, and control America's super hero population? Not entirely. But in today's political climate, it's an inevitable reality — and I've seen too many parallel worlds where a schism between the human and superhuman populations resulted in humanity's eventual downfall. If the super hero community resists registration and another Stamford-like incident occurs, then I have no doubt that we'd all be placed in federal custody. That's why I offered my services to you as the head of your Super Hero Task Force, Mr. President. If I weren't in charge of this operation, then someone else would be, most likely someone less sympathetic to the everyday challenges of super heroics such as Maria Hill or Henry Gyrich. With me spearheading the government's new initiatives, at least I can ensure that enforcement of this federal legislation is carried out both fairly and firmly.

The following dossiers are part of your daily intelligence briefing, detailing the powers and personalities of several key figures as I see them.

Tony Stark

-Tony Stark
Acting Chairman, Presidential Super Hero Task Force

ARACHNE

After her former college classmate Val Cooper convinced her to join one of the Commission on Superhuman Affairs' projects, Julia Carpenter was mutated by a formula of rare plants and venoms from the Amazon rain forest, granting her superhuman power as Spider-Woman. Between C.S.A. assignments, Julia also worked as a solo hero in Denver, Colorado, where she became one of several residents whose suburb was drawn into space to join other environments as the battleground for the Beyonder's "Secret Wars," during which he also abducted several more prominent heroes (with Jim Rhodes as Iron Man at the time) and villains. Although apparently not an intentional addition to the Beyonder's cosmic diversion, she acquitted herself well in battle and earned my colleagues' respect, with Spider-Man even patterning a new costume (and, inadvertently, a new enemy) after her.

Julia received much less respect upon returning to Earth, where she lost custody of her daughter Rachel and was drafted into another C.S.A. operation, Freedom Force, as one of the few non-felons on the team. After a few forced fights with the X-Men, she and her teammates helped the C.S.A. imprison several Avengers (from both coasts) in the newly developed Vault on trumped-up treason charges from the temporarily deranged Quicksilver. Julia, increasingly distrustful of the Commission's agenda and far more inclined to trust her comrades from Battleworld, freed us and, in a too-typical example of the government's past abuses of superhuman operatives, became a fugitive herself. After assisting me against the Seekers and Spider-Man against the Wrecking Crew, she became a reluctant solo Commission operative for a time, then a far more enthusiastic West Coast Avenger, fighting the Pacific Overlords, fellow former C.S.A. operatives in Deathweb, and others. When the Manipulator killed her ex-husband Larry and threatened her parents and daughter, Julia defeated both him and his supporters in Deathweb, rescuing her family.

After the WCA folded, Julia was one of several alumni who followed me to my new "pro-active" team endeavor, the short-lived Force Works, which took us to Slorenia, China, Australia, and elsewhere. When Force Works also went under thanks to...circumstances too complex to go into here, she nevertheless remained in the business, even helping rescue Jessica Drew, the former and current possessor of the Spider-Woman name, from the mysterious Void-Eater. She briefly lost her powers in battle with yet another Spider-Woman, Spider-Man's enemy Charlotte Witter, but has since seemingly regained them.

Shortly after the current Superhuman Registration Act was passed, I persuaded Julia, now back on the West Coast as "Arachne," to join my team, but she erroneously thought we were going to help people AVOID registration, not force them into it. After this initial misunderstanding was cleared-up, we assigned Julia (alongside Ms. Marvel and Wonder Man) to an elite squad of S.H.I.E.L.D. "training officers" under my direct supervision. Their mission was to train other registered super heroes to perform government-authorized security activities, in addition to the standard apprehension of unregistered combatants.

With what proved to be the kind of irony I can do very well without, she was soon sent after Max Coleridge, a.k.a. the Shroud. Orphaned by criminals as a boy, the Shroud underwent extensive training by the Cult of Kali to become a crimefighter and, after receiving a mystical sense of perception, started out at age seventeen, intent on defeating Doctor Doom himself, at that time caught in political intrigue with Atlantis and other parties (I think Namor's response to Coleridge's self-declared mission was something like "Ah, I see. You're a madman."). However, events conspired to place Shroud as Doom's ally against the Red Skull. Later, after acquiring the ability to summon Darkforce energy, Shroud embarked on a more long-term project, establishing himself as an underworld leader to bring down organized crime from within. To this end he led a collection of misfit superhumans called the Night Shift, most of whom abandoned him after learning his true intentions.

The Shroud was an occasional ally of the WCA, even receiving an invitation to join once, and has received tentative recommendation from Cap and Spider-Man, but the law is the law; and besides, his years of infiltrating organized crime give him a particularly suspicious air. Unfortunately, he's also Julia's new boyfriend, so she was particularly motivated to help him escape Ms. Marvel and Wonder Man.

I see now that trying to recruit Julia was a mistake. While our intelligence didn't discover her relationship with the Shroud until recently, her grudge against the Commission was well-established and should have been expected to color her outlook. At present she remains on the run with the Shroud, possibly intending to rendezvous with her family in Colorado and pick up Rachel. I'm not looking forward to seeing how far she takes her own mistake.

ATLANTIS

(In addition to conventional government intelligence on Atlantis, this debriefing includes information derived from personal dialogue with Namor and a selection of his contemporaries and associates.)

NAMOR

ANDROMEDA

NAMORITA

SETH

VASHTI

NAMORA

KORMOK

ARKUS

MADOXX

RAMAN

Although the Homo Mermani race that eventually settled the undersea kingdom of Atlantis can trace their history back ten millennia, its first major appearance on the stage of world affairs seems to have been in 1939 in the person of Namor the Sub-Mariner, certainly its most famous inhabitant. Sent as a scout by his grandfather Emperor Thakorr, Namor, then only 18, was unimpressed by New York's residents and embarked on a series of destructive sprees motivated by ire or amusement. With Atlantis's armies answering to his whims, he wrought international chaos until Nazi Germany's attack on his kingdom drew him to more serious considerations. Initially allying with the Seal People and other undersea races with dreams of conquering Allies and Axis alike, he was briefly deposed when his uncle Daka and the Seal People's Lonu-Ne sought direct ties with Germany. Shortly after U.S. entry into the war, Atlantis was again divided as Namor, won over by Captain America and the android Torch, sided with the Allies while his mother Fen sided with the Axis. Although most Atlantean aid was extended only to the Allies as the war continued, at times Namor's savagery in battle would've given pause to even the hardest human heart. Atlantis was a peaceful participant in the post-war Potsdam Conference, and Atlantis has enjoyed United Nations observer status, although not full membership, ever since.

No serious skirmishes between Atlantis and the surface world were reported for nearly a decade following the war's end, but when Namor resurfaced (so to speak) in 1953 after a four-year withdrawal from surface affairs, his kingdom was a far less reliable ally: severely unbalanced after years away from the surface, he was willing to fight communist insurgents on America's behalf but just as willing to consider selling out the entire Earth to extraterrestrials on a whim. In 1954, what amounted to a civil war between Namor and his cousin Byrrah, a communist collaborator, inundated the northern United States and southern Canada with mobile glaciers directed from both oceans, displacing thousands and almost causing a literal new Ice Age. The technology to do so, which eludes our understanding even to this day, may have been lost when Atlantis itself was devastated by the Serpent Crown four years later — even the Atlantean warlord Attuma has never tried it (but, as I know better than most, anything that can be invented can be reinvented).

From 1959 to 1963, a handful of incursions from undersea powers occurred, few of them significant and none directly traceable to the Atlanteans (there are stats floating around that Atlantis attacks the surface world 2.6 times per decade, but I have no idea where that figure comes from). By then Namor was wandering New York as an amnesiac derelict. Mako, a shark-like female opponent of the heroic First Line, seemed to have Atlantean ties, but thus far investigations indicate no noticeable Atlantean role in world politics for several years, and despite its erratic prominence in earlier decades, its existence almost vanished from public memory.

All of this changed shortly after the formation of the Fantastic Four, when the Human Torch (Johnny Storm) met that same amnesiac derelict, whom he recognized as Namor and brought to ocean waters, where Namor's memories began their gradual return. Mistaken assumptions about Atlantis' fate, plus lingering amnesia aggravated by long-untreated blood imbalance, drove Namor to declare one-man war on the surface world, and when he was reunited with his people months later, he led Atlantean forces against the world's major capitals, although he retained enough sanity to order fatalities kept to a minimum. When Namor's conduct toward the enemy was deemed unsuitable by his armies, they abandoned him, and he entered brief alliances with the Hulk and Magneto before regaining control. Scarcely had he done so when he was overthrown by the barbarian warlord Attuma, whom Namor ousted with the surreptitious assistance of the Fantastic Four, who rightly recognized the incident's potential impact on surface affairs (although Attuma persisted a consistent challenge to Namor's reign, most struggles between them were, strictly speaking, internal Atlantean affairs, so I will discuss only the more significant ones below). Namor's later effort to establish peaceful dialogue with the U.S. was undermined by an attempted coup from the Atlantean warlord Krang. Meanwhile, Attuma embarked on a series of surface incursions bringing him into conflict with first Giant-Man (Hank Pym, currently Yellowjacket) and the Wasp (Janet Van Dyne), then myself as Iron Man, and finally the Avengers of that period, meeting defeat on each occasion. During this same timeframe I was also drawn into battle with Namor due to Stark Industries' inadvertent interference in his continued struggle against Krang.

Later, Attuma formed a conspiracy with rival Atlantean prince Byrrah and Krang to depose Namor and share joint rule, possibly as a Council of Three (an Atlantean governmental body lacking clear U.S. analogue, this is apparently an alliance of [customarily] administrative, military, and religious figures with power roughly equal to the emperor so as to rule in

his absence). This coup failed, and a minor incident between Namor and myself regarding illegal ocean pollution ended amicably (by Namor's standards, anyway), but Atlantis again threatened the eastern seaboard when he was manipulated into an alliance with Magneto, but the Fantastic Four enabled Namor to disassociate himself and withdraw his troops. Atlantean troop movement recurred weeks later, although merely as a show of force to call attention to mass sickness in Atlantis from inadvertent gas poisoning.

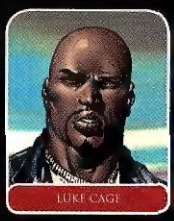
While Atlantis played no recorded role in the Kree-Skrull War's impingement on Earth, it was shortly after that invasion that I established an informal consultation group with Namor, Black Bolt of the Inhumans, and other expert figures on various security matters. Weeks later, the manipulations of Moondragon (having arrived to warn Earth of the threat of Thanos) briefly brought me to blows with Namor once more. Subsequently, Attuma attempted to destroy Atlantis with an army of mutated sea creatures but was turned away by the Defenders, a super-team Namor had recently joined. Another ally, the alien Tamara Rahn, was held illegally by the U.N., prompting Namor to lead yet another invasion force to liberate her. Following this incident, Atlantis remained in relative isolation for some time, and Namor assisted me against illegal corporate activity by Roxxon Oil, although the Kiber Island incident, a brief misunderstanding between Atlantis and Wakanda, raised some international concerns before it was averted by the Defenders.

A few years ago, following Namor's most recent bid for Atlantean U.N. membership, he was forced into abdication by the then-current Council of Three: Vashti, Thakos, and Shakkoth. However, Shakkoth then used his religious influence to ignite a civil war in Atlantis; Vashti and Thakos, joined by Namor's cousin Dara, allied with Attuma's forces to overwhelm Shakkoth's rebels, but Attuma then claimed the kingdom for his own. Not realizing Namor, now an Avenger, had no interest in reclaiming his throne, Attuma abducted Namor's alien wife Marrina, necessitating a response by the Avengers and Marrina's friends in the Canadian Alpha Flight. Following Marrina's liberation, Namor established the short-lived kingdom of Deluvia, where he seemed content to remain, but Atlantis's next incursion was among the most serious of the past half-century, the appropriately if unimaginatively dubbed "Atlantis Attacks," wherein Attuma allied with the Deviants and the Lemurians in a multi-front attack of the U.S. For our purposes, the full origins and consequences of those attacks are secondary to the implications of multiple non-human/meta-tech societies banding together against more conventional nations; the fact that the alliance of this particular incident quickly fractured is beside the point.

After being betrayed by his allies, Attuma surrendered to trial by the U.N., but many months later Morgan le Fay raised Atlantis to the ocean's surface, where Namor was forced to repel Portugese efforts to annex his kingdom before it was sunken again during Portugal's later hostilities with Attilan. Eventually Attuma regained control of Atlantis, in which capacity he briefly allied with Kang the Conqueror in his latest siege on modern-day Earth. More recently, Attuma was driven out of Atlantis by the Defenders, and Namor, after establishing Attuma's daughter Andromeda and his cousins Namorita and Seth as the latest Council of Three, next allied himself with the modern Invaders to claim the Middle Eastern nation Mazikhandar as an Atlantean protectorate. However, on his home front, Shakkoth resurfaced as one of the leaders of the fanatical At'La'Tique religious movement, which allied with Hydra and sent their task force, Fathom Five, to wreak havoc in New York until driven out by the Thunderbolts; Namor addressed the U.N. on this matter, disassociating his kingdom with these rebels, and although I believe this to be true, international reaction was not encouraging, nor was Namor's predictable ire at such doubt. Unfortunately, subsequent decisions regarding the treatment of Namor's longtime friend the Hulk alienated him further from surface allies, and he expressed only contempt for the pre-Stamford concept of super hero registration, boasting Atlantis would conquer surface society after we tore ourselves apart. I emphasize that I have no doubt this was mere swaggering on Namor's part, but the death of his cousin Namorita in the Stamford disaster has returned his attention to us in the worst conceivable manner.

I guarantee Namor has no interest in the repercussions and adaptations demanded by Stamford; he wants justice and/or vengeance for his cousin's death, and I do not blame him. He will stop at nothing to lay his hands on Nitro, but it is my fear he may not stop with Nitro himself. I have already seen reports of Atlantean sleeper agents, hidden in American society for years, revealing their true nature across the country; Attuma was seemingly slain by the Sentry weeks ago, and At'La'Tique is reportedly decimated by radiation sickness, so Atlantis has no direct threats to distract it. It's 1939 all over again, but we're not dealing with a kid who wants New York for his amusement park any more, folks, we're dealing with Namor the First, the Avenging Son, Prince of Atlantis, Emperor of the Deep, Lord of the Seven Seas, Supreme Commander of the Undersea Legions, a hardened veteran of wars, including the most devastating one of the 20th century. Our nation's super heroes may be divided against each other at the very moment their country most needs them united.

THE AVENGERS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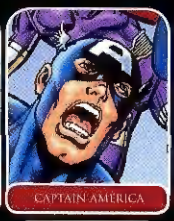

CAPTAIN AMERICA

IRON MAN

SPIDER-MAN

SPIDER-WOMAN

SENTRY

WOLVERINE

As can be expected, a team consisting of "Earth's Mightiest Heroes" has had its fair share of interaction with world governments over the years, both positive and negative. In fact, our relationship with the United States government began before the team was officially founded. While I was still drafting the charter and by-laws needed to guide the team's development, I was actively negotiating with Special Agent James Murch of the National Security Council in an attempt to gain the A-1 security clearance ("Avengers Priority") status we would need to facilitate our operations as a peacekeeping force under the authority of the United States and United Nations. Ironically, I included a specific provision in the team's charter at the time which provided that we would not be forced to reveal our secret identities to the federal government (although recent world events have caused me to reevaluate the prudence of such a provision). Although the general populace regarded us with suspicion at first, we soon gained their respect and admiration through our exploits (and also due in part to the presence of Captain America, who we revived and recruited shortly after the team's official founding). It was also primarily due to Captain America's presence that we eventually received our A-1 security clearance without having to jump through Agent Murch's hoops.

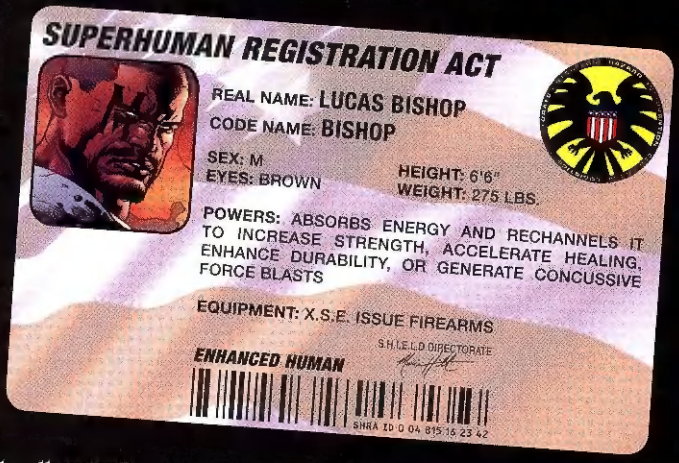
Just as the Avengers' roster has shifted over the years, so has the team's relationship with the government. Clearly, Washington couldn't have been happy when I took a leave of absence and left Captain America in charge, who then took it upon himself to grant membership to the criminal archer Hawkeye and the mutant terrorists Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch. Nonetheless, even these questionable recruits gained the government's trust and the public's admiration over time (although I wish that were still the case as far as Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch are concerned). The paranoid Henry Peter Gyrich of the Commission for Superhuman Activities was eventually appointed as the team's government liaison. Under Gyrich's tenure, he often threatened to revoke and sometimes suspended our A-1 security clearance, using his position to force modifications to the team's membership policies and recruit new members in order to meet racial and gender quotas. Gyrich was eventually replaced by Raymond Sikorsky, who was a far less meddlesome bureaucrat.

Public confidence in the Avengers suffered a major setback when our synthezoid member Vision became corrupted by the alien computer ISAAC and gained control of the world's computer systems with aspirations of world domination. Although the situation was quickly rectified and Vision was freed from ISAAC's influence, the incident led to the government again viewing the Avengers as a potential threat to national security. With our security clearance and government privileges severely curtailed, the Avengers were no longer allowed to house aircraft within New York City limits, forcing the team to relocate our Quinjets to the artificial island known as the Hydrobase in the Atlantic Ocean. Concerned about Vision's exposure to classified data during his brief attempt at world domination, the international coalition of government intelligence agencies known as Vigilance abducted the synthezoid and seemingly wiped his mind clean. Soon after, the U.S. government forced their operative U.S. Agent onto the team of Avengers operating on the West Coast in order to supervise their operations.

We eventually lost our U.S. government support altogether, forcing us to reincorporate under a new United Nations charter. No longer beholden to the U.S. government, the West Coast branch promptly fired U.S. Agent for misconduct, although he eventually rejoined the team. When the villain Kang the Conqueror led a full-scale war against Earth, it was the Avengers who led the battle against Kang and his allies, although we were unable to prevent Kang's devastating assault on Washington, D.C. Shortly after, the super villain Scorpio began causing the world's capital cities to disappear and the United Nations (along with Gyrich, our new UN liasion) called on the Avengers to serve as an emergency global authority and peacekeeping force. Upon Scorpio's defeat, the grateful UN granted the Avengers the sovereignty enjoyed by independent nations, empowering Avengers members to act as diplomatic representatives of the super hero community. Unfortunately, all of our forward progress evaporated the day the Scarlet Witch, one of our own members, succumbed to insanity and used her reality-warping powers against us, forcing the Avengers to disband. It wasn't until months later that Cap and I decided to reassemble the Avengers in the wake of the Raft super villain breakout — but it was different this time, the U.S. government didn't trust us (the C.S.A. even recruited the Thunderbolts to attack us and plant surveillance equipment in our headquarters) and we couldn't even trust S.H.I.E.L.D.

The Registration Act has only put further strain on the already fractured team dynamic. Frankly, I don't even know who "the Avengers" are now. Do we even exist anymore? Obviously, Captain America and I are not on the same page — and he seems to have brought Avengers such as Luke Cage, Spider-Woman, Falcon, and Hercules around to his way of thinking. On the side of the government, we have Wonder Man, Ms. Marvel, Yellowjacket, She-Hulk, Mr. Fantastic, Wolverine (nominally), Sentry, and myself. Hell, I'm starting to suspect that even Peter may be having second thoughts about registration.

BISHOP


SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: LUCAS BISHOP
CODE NAME: BISHOP
SEX: M
EYES: BROWN
HEIGHT: 6'6"
WEIGHT: 275 LBS.
POWERS: ABSORBS ENERGY AND RECHANNELS IT TO INCREASE STRENGTH, ACCELERATE HEALING, ENHANCE DURABILITY, OR GENERATE CONCUSSIVE FORCE BLASTS
EQUIPMENT: X.S.E. ISSUE FIREARMS
S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTORATE
ENHANCED HUMAN
SHRA ID 0 04 815 16 23 42

Lucas Bishop is an X-Man — but you couldn't tell it from his outlook on the state of mutant-human affairs. That's probably due to his unique life experiences and training as a mutant police officer. He was born in an alternate timeline approximately 20 years in our future, a world where the mutant-hunting Sentinel robots had taken over North America and those mutants who had not been systematically slaughtered were rounded up into relocation camps. Bishop was actually born in one of those mutant relocation camps (after his parents fled to America when the nation of Australia was destroyed in a nuclear strike) where, like all mutants, he was branded with an "M" tattoo over his right eye for identification purposes. Eventually, humans and mutants joined forces to overthrow their Sentinel oppressors in what came to be known as the Summers Rebellion. But tensions between humans and mutants remained uneasy, with mutant terrorist groups such as the Exhumes declaring war on humankind. This prompted the Summers Rebellion veteran known as Hecat'e to establish the Xavier Security Enforcers (X.S.E.), a mutant police force founded on Hecat'e's belief that only mutants should hunt down mutant criminals.

Bishop idolized the Exhume terrorists as a child, but decided he wanted to join the X.S.E. after they rescued him from an Exhume member who nearly killed him. Bishop's dream was realized when he and his sister, Shard, were accepted as cadets in the X.S.E. Academy under the supervision of Hecat'e. Eventually graduating, Shard became a commanding officer while Bishop contented himself with a lower rank where he could work the streets as a homicide investigator. Bishop arrived in our era when he chased a gang of mutant criminals through a time portal. Meeting the X-Men, who were regarded as legendary figures in his time, the stranded Bishop was honored when Charles Xavier offered him membership on the team. United with the legends of his youth, Bishop set out to prevent the genetic war that led to his timeline.

Bishop eventually formed a splinter group of X-Men which he hoped would form the basis of what would become the X.S.E. of his own time. Led by the X-Man Storm, this "X-Treme Sanctions Executive" was an international, government-approved force of global mutant peacekeepers. But federal authorities had other plans for Bishop, as his experience as a mutant police officer was needed in Manhattan's Alphabet City (colloquially known as "District X" or "Mutant Town"), a section of New York City that had become a safe haven for mutants from around the world. Concerned with Alphabet City's rising crime rates, Bishop was paired with human NYPD officer Ismael "Izzy" Ortega and sent to investigate rumors of a mutant gang war between rival crime lords Daniel "Shaky" Kaufman and "Filthy" Frankie Zapruder, among other disturbances in the community. Naturally, after the world's mutant population was decimated on M-Day, there was little need for a mutant police officer in Mutant Town, as nearly all of Mutant Town's population had been transformed into non-powered humans. So Bishop returned to full-time status as an X-Man.

Shortly after the SuperhumanRegistration Act was passed, I personally went to the X-Men to see if I could count on their support in apprehending noncompliant superhuman vigilantes. I was turned away with the promise that the X-Men would remain neutral in the conflict so long as they were left alone. But Bishop, not one to stand idly by while federal laws are being broken, felt differently and approached me as I was leaving the Xavier Institute, offering his assistance should we require it. Then, when the mutant refugees known as the 198 escaped federal protection, Bishop, who wanted to prevent the escape, had a falling out with Cyclops, leader of the X-Men.

Now Bishop works with us and had been placed in charge of a O*N*E coalition charged with locating the missing members of the 198. He is joined by Sabra (Ruth Bat-Seraph), a mutant agent of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency on loan to S.H.I.E.L.D. in exchange for the intelligence and surveillance technology that Israel needs to institute its own registration program. Also joining Bishop is Micromax (Scott Wright), a former agent of Britain's FI-6 and Resources Control eXecutive (RCX) who is now affiliated with MI-13, the branch of the British Secret Service that deals with super-beings and other weird happenings. Operating out of a O*N*E Sentinel Base in New Mexico, Bishop and his allies (supported by a team of O*N*E agents and Sentinel robots) have pinpointed the 198's location in an abandoned S.H.I.E.L.D. bunker in the Nevada Desert and have deployed to reacquire them. I will keep you posted on their progress.

Although he was born in a mutant relocation camp guarded by Sentinels, Bishop is intelligent enough to make the distinction between the current federal efforts to protect mutants and the totalitarian oppression he was subjected to in his future. I trust Bishop. He understands that we need to look at the big picture rather than succumb to knee-jerk reactions. I wish I could say the same for his fellow X-Men.

CABLE

Cable is perhaps my worst nightmare given form. Where Captain America is the heart of the faction rebelling against us, the mutant known as Cable has the power and ability to turn the tide in their favor.

My knowledge of this man's history is sketchy at best. As best I can tell, he's actually the son of Scott Summers, a.k.a. Cyclops of the X-Men, and a clone of the departed Jean Grey. Sent into the future to save him from a techno-organic virus that coursed through his body, he grew up there, hardened by a world where the madman Apocalypse ruled — and then he found a way back. For years, he seemed to pop up here and there, often leading a band of mercenaries called the Six Pack. Then he became an ever-constant presence in the mutant community a few years back. Taking Charles Xavier's students known as the New Mutants, he molded them into a military unit called X-Force. I made the mistake then of writing him off as just another superhuman, albeit one with very large, sophisticated weaponry. After one of the several times he was believed dead, his X-Force crossed paths with War Machine and S.H.I.E.L.D., and also made quick work of the Canadian-sponsored team Weapon: P.R.I.M.E. Upon his return, he continued his militaristic dogma, even having a hand in the apparent demise of the most recent incarnation of the Weapon X program.

WANTED
by S.H.I.E.L.D.

NATHAN SUMMERS

ALIASES: CABLE
BIRTHPLACE: WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
HEIGHT: 6'8"
WEIGHT: 350
BUILD: LARGE
HAIR: WHITE
EYES: BLUE
SEX: M
NATIONALITY: U.S.A.
AREA OF OPS: PROVIDENCE, RUMEKISTAN, WORLDWIDE

KNOWN POWERS: TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED TELEPATHY AND TELEKINESIS. MASTER STRATEGIST AND COMBATANT.

KNOWN EQUIPMENT: VARIOUS CONVENTIONAL AND NON-CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND FIREARMS.

ALL SUSPECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Then things changed. Cable found a new purpose in life: to bring the world together whether the world liked it or not. S.H.I.E.L.D. tried to stop him, with little effect. It took the power of the Silver Surfer to finally burn him out, but not before he managed to create his own would-be South Pacific island-nation, Providence. This was all part of his plan, apparently, as he hoped to unite the world against him. Like a cockroach, Cable survived this as well, employing the mercenary Deadpool to help save him. He now uses massive amounts of technology (including, I'm willing to wager, some of mine) to replace his lost mutant powers. To make matters worse, he just took over the European nation of Rumekistan after orchestrating the assassination of their head of state, the Flag-Smasher (not to be confused with an apparent impersonator of his running around Los Angeles these days).

Cable is manipulative, cunning, and a born fighter. And I cannot say how much I abhor the thought that he's currently assisting Captain America's rebels. In fact, I don't even understand it. These last few months, Cable has sought a type of world peace, one that the Superhuman Registration Act would help bring about. All of us, working together, with both S.H.I.E.L.D. and the U.S. government. So why, after claiming two countries for himself, has he brought himself back down to a street-level resistance movement? Why is he offering unregistered super heroes amnesty in Providence?

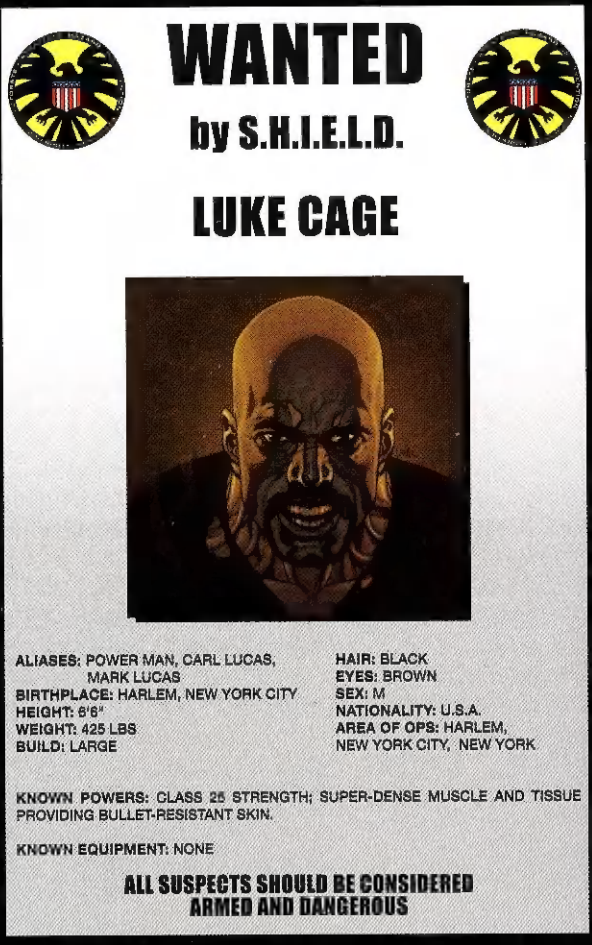
Cable is too charismatic, in his weathered old soldier way. I've seen mere children follow him blindly into battle. Even if he isn't out to unite the world at this moment, his very presence can unite the various bands of fugitives we're trying to find. Worse, he can and will convince those on the fence to come around to his way of thinking, as if Captain America's power of personality wasn't enough.

It amazes me how similar Cable and Baron Zemo's new philosophies mirror one another. Both are men of violence out to make the world a better place the way they see fit. At least we have Zemo on a leash for the moment. We've also made a vital win against this would-be messiah: Deadpool, who Cable has recently been using to do his dirty work, is working for us now.

Cable's not alone, though. Through his time in the present, he has amassed an astounding number of blind followers. The various members of X-Force, many of whom we're already seeing show up by his side in this campaign (at least one of the youngest, Tabitha "Boom Boom" Smith has remained with her rogue anti-terror team Nextwave...for now); fellow time-traveler Prester John; and possibly most importantly, Irene Merryweather, a former journalist who, whether she realizes it or not, has turned into one hell of a PR rep for Cable.

Smart, powerful, charismatic, dangerous, and with knowledge of the future...well, knowledge of his future. All the worst ingredients for a potential enemy. Even worse for a current one. He's out there somewhere. I just hope it won't take the Silver Surfer to take him down this time.

LUKE CAGE


WANTED
by S.H.I.E.L.D.
LUKE CAGE
ALIASES: POWER MAN, CARL LUCAS, MARK LUCAS
BIRTHPLACE: HARLEM, NEW YORK CITY
HEIGHT: 6'6"
WEIGHT: 425 LBS
BUILD: LARGE
HAIR: BLACK
EYES: BROWN
SEX: M
NATIONALITY: U.S.A.
AREA OF OPS: HARLEM, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK
KNOWN POWERS: CLASS 25 STRENGTH; SUPER-DENSE MUSCLE AND TISSUE PROVIDING BULLET-RESISTANT SKIN.
KNOWN EQUIPMENT: NONE
ALL SUSPECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Luke Cage is a good man, every bit as noble as Steve Rogers in his own way. I wish we weren't on opposite sides of this conflict; he, of all people, should understand that young people especially need guidance. Born Carl Lucas, the son of James Lucas, a decent, hardworking ex-NYPD officer injured in the line of duty, Luke fell in with the wrong crowd, eventually joining one of Harlem's youth gangs, the Bloods; then his mother died. Though he was in no way responsible, her death made Luke realize the hurt he was causing his family, and he determined to straighten out his life, quitting the gangs. Unfortunately his friend Willis didn't, and a couple of years later, when the two friends became competitors for the same woman, Reva Connors, Willis framed Luke, planting drugs in his apartment and tipping off the police. Luke received a 20-year sentence. Before he could clear himself, Reva died in an assassination attempt aimed at Willis, and then Luke's brother, James Jr., lied to him, informing him their father had died heartbroken over his son's wrongdoing. With nothing left to lose, Luke agreed to undergo scientist Noah Burstein's experimental procedure to enhance cellular regeneration in return for a chance of parole. Luke emerged with steel-hard skin and superhuman strength, and promptly escaped.

Luke could easily have disappeared then; he was believed to have died during his jailbreak. Or he could have turned back to crime, taking revenge on a system he felt had wronged him. But Luke's better than that. Instead he returned to New York, risking recapture in the hope of proving his innocence. He became a Hero-for-Hire, taking the Luke Cage identity he's kept to this day, and while some decried him for accepting payment for something others do for free, there were plenty of instances where Luke risked his life helping those who needed him without asking for payment. He's got plenty of contacts in the Times Square area as a result, and it's worth starting any hunt for him there.

It was during this period I first met him. One Orville Smythe hired Luke to "test Stark Industries security" by stealing an experimental Star-Suit. Luke and I came to blows, and he managed to do serious damage to my armor with his bare hands before we cleared things up. Keep in mind that this was before he got some major subsequent power boosts; don't underestimate him. Though he might not be able to bench press as much as them in a gym, he's gone toe to toe with heavy hitters like the Rhino, Hulk and Orka in his time. Ironically, shortly before I met Luke, Peter encountered him after J. Jonah Jameson hired Luke to capture Spider-Man, then wanted by the police; mindful of his own erroneous conviction, Luke let him go. Hopefully Peter won't let that influence him now.

Luke eventually cleared himself with the assistance of Iron Fist, and the two became close friends and partners. A definite odd-couple, they worked together for several years, until Fist was apparently murdered. It later turned out virtually no one involved was who they truly seemed: Lt Kris Keating of the NYPD was dead, replaced by an agent of the Foreigner, detective Tyrone King was really Fist and Luke's old foe Master Khan, the superpowered boy who committed the murder was a brainwashed Super-Skrull, and even the victim was a plant...literally. Don't ask — all you need to know is that Luke was surrounded by enemies, and it was easy for another of his enemies, Cruz Bushmaster, to frame Luke for Fist's "death." Cage went on the run again, until influence from the Avengers and FF and Iron Fist's reappearance finally got the charges dropped. Soon after some murderous Vault Guardsmen tried to frame him as a cop-killer before he could expose their own wrongdoings, and it wasn't too much later he was briefly possessed by a demon, and rampaged through Chicago. In each instance, he chose to go on the run rather than trust in the system to sort things out, though on both occasions he was exonerated. Over the years he's been a member of the Fantastic Four, the Defenders and Heroes-For-Hire. Cap recruited him to the New Avengers after Luke's help during the Raft breakout and I've served alongside him with pride.

Given his experiences, wrongly accused on no less than four occasions, I don't blame him, but he's got an instinctive distrust of the system, and his attitude to Registration isn't surprising. Even though he could easily register and avoid becoming a fugitive again, he's risking his new family, his wife Jessica and newborn son, to do what he thinks is right. I hope I could convince him of the terrible mistake he's made before it's too late.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

"Wait! Don't you recognize it? It's the famous red, white, and blue garb of... Captain America!"

I've been fortunate enough to witness many awe-inspiring moments, but rarely a brighter one then I saw that day. While hunting one legend, Namor, we'd discovered a greater one instead. Jim recognized him first, but the rest of us weren't far behind. Even the Asgardian God of Thunder already knew his name.

Despite how quickly Cap adapted to our fight with Namor (neither had regained enough faculties to recognize each other as old friends), I was still a bit slow in realizing just who we had among us. Of course I knew his name, but somehow the years had left him with a reputation as just a gangbuster and spy smasher. When he and I were unexpectedly faced with robots from Gargantus' alien masters, I wasn't sure how well he'd cope. I thought I'd have to carry the whole fight. A few minutes later, after Cap had knocked me out of the robots' control just in time to watch them go down, I wasn't thinking that way any more. Of course. I later learned the 1940s had offered him such diversions as sorcerers, vampires, cyborgs, plant-monsters, and giant intelligent apes, making him a five-year veteran of the sorts of battles I hadn't even imagined yet. In retrospect, I'd have to say that was pretty much the most humbling alien robot fight I've ever had.

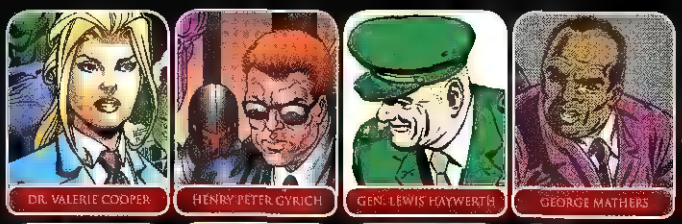
Even today some people overlook Cap's true secret. Operation: Rebirth transformed him into the pinnacle of human perfection, yet every attempt to recreate or mimic Professor Erskine's super-soldier serum has induced greater mutations: Protocide, the Glob, Victorius, Nuke, G.I. Max, the Bannermen, even the Sentry. The Cap and Bucky impostors of the 1950s received only part of Erskine's treatment and became stronger than Cap — and far more unstable. In fact, almost every subsequent super-soldier I've seen has suffered mental disorientation or breakdown of some sort or another. Erskine knew that in some ways the body is the least of a soldier's weapons. No army of muscle-bound drones could have won World War II. There's also strategy, initiative, adaptability, and sheer presence — qualities Cap brought to the Avengers when we were barely old enough to know how much we needed them. Other people might have gone mad after being metaphorically hurled forward in time nearly a half-century. In a matter of months he became perhaps the most important figure in the superhuman community, S.H.I.E.L.D.'s favorite son, and the bane of every terrorist organization of the time.

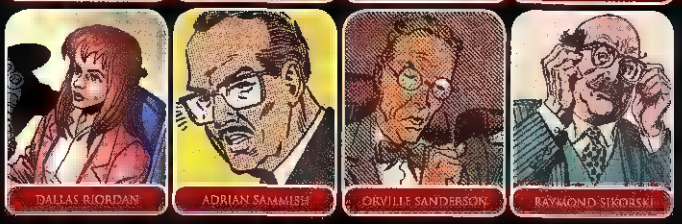
But even Cap has his breaking points, as we learned years later, just after what even for us constituted a busy few months: the Kree-Skrull War, a trip to Olympus, fights with the Sentinels AND Magneto, capped by a conflict with the Defenders, so Cap was off to unwind by dealing the Secret Empire its first crippling defeat. But the revelation that a highly placed and respected government official was the Empire's mastermind crippled Cap in a different way. No longer recognizing the U.S. government, he took a new face of his own as Nomad. This phase didn't last long, only until a hapless youth died trying to keep Cap's name alive, but Cap now dedicated himself to the American ideals themselves, not the government he'd been taught upheld them. All well and good as far as it went, but it would go much further.

More years passed. The Dire Wraiths overwhelmed the Earth, the Vision went rural, the Beyonder played his games, the Masters of Evil left the mansion in ruins, and the C.S.A. tried to call Cap back home as the official government operative he'd been before most of them were born. This time he didn't throw away his identity, he merely gave it back. With my help in obtaining a new shield, Cap reclaimed himself as the Captain, but I was busier undoing the rampant duplication of my technology via my "Armor Wars." I'd grown so paranoid I didn't trust even the government to use my inventions responsibly, but Cap felt my forced deactivation approach went too far, and we came to blows when he tried and failed to protect Guardsman suits then in government use. Later, he confronted me and more or less threw his new shield back in my face. But, still the Captain and still Cap, he rebuilt the Avengers after the team fell apart as the result of Terminatrix's physical and mental assault, and soon after the C.S.A. gave him back his rank and uniform. But things were never quite the same between the two of us.

After we re-organized the Avengers in Onslaught's wake, Cap challenged my unilateral use of a rare opportunity to erase all knowledge of my secret identity from the world's memories. He felt I'd taken too much power upon myself, just as he felt I had during the Armor Wars. Yet this time it's Cap who outright distrusts the government's intentions, Cap who thinks our powers and our secrets will be abused. The man who's served over twice as many years as an Avenger in "the present" than he did as an Invader in "the past," the government's best and greatest success in the super-agent field, is now super-hero registration's foremost and greatest opponent...an opponent whose career should give even his most powerful enemies second thoughts. His presence alone inspires super heroes to defy the law and continue their vigilante activities without government authorization.

COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES





Since the days when Senator Harrington Byrd constantly suspected me of being in league with terrorists and subversives, my relationship with the government has been uneasy. I might have spared myself a lot of grief if I had come clean about being Iron Man sooner. More than any other government body, the C.S.A. holds sway over our country's *superhuman resources, from defense programs such as S.T.A.R. and O*N*E, to coordinating with S.H.I.E.L.D.* and the Thunderbolts, and they will be key in guiding our nation through our present difficulties.

The Commission is currently chaired by Dr. Valerie Cooper, the President's Advisor on Mutant Affairs, who has worked tirelessly to defend our nation through past superhuman programs. The Commission first came to the attention of the Avengers when they demanded that Captain America become fully answerable to their direction. It transpired that the chairman, Douglas Rockwell, was a pawn of the Red Skull, but that wasn't disclosed until after Rockwell's death. Steve's refusal to yield to the government led to him abandoning his costume, and the Commission filled it with John Walker, who continues to serve them to this day as the U.S. Agent (although these days John is mostly engaged in overseas operations). At the time Steve was going through his crisis, I identified with him because I was in the midst of hunting down all of my errant suits of armor, and that forced me to turn on the government to destroy their stock of my equipment. I've since learned the error of my ways, but Steve hasn't — he's become even worse, encouraging others to join him in flagrant civil disobedience.

The Avengers enjoyed a healthy relationship with the C.S.A. for years, until our recent disbandment and secret reformation. The C.S.A. were rightfully suspicious of our activities, and sent the Thunderbolts after us as a wake-up call; maybe if I had heeded it, I wouldn't be where I am now, forced to resort to violence to fix our community. We should never have let our relations with the government lapse the way we did — we should have kept ourselves accountable to them and worked hand in hand.

If all goes as planned, the C.S.A. will soon assume the position they should have always held, and manage all of our country's superhumans in the Fifty State Initiative. Aside from that bit of business with Cap, they've had fair relations with us up until now, and I will be all too happy to let them focus superhuman policy from now on.

The earliest superhuman force gathered by the C.S.A. was Freedom Force, an attempt at redeeming the terrorists within the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Of Freedom Force's members, Avalanche, Blob, the Crimson Commando, Mystique, and Spiral have all gone rogue; while Destiny, Stonewall, Super-Sabre, and Pyro are deceased. From the ashes of Freedom Force came X-Factor. Of them, Forge continues to serve the government, but Havok, Polaris, Multiple Man, Shard, Strong Guy, Wild Child, and Wolfsbane have returned to their various civilian X-groups. The most recent attempt at team building were the Redeemers, comprised of the Beetle, Chateau, Citizen V, the Fixer, Jolt, Meteorite, Scream, and Smuggler. Unfortunately, the Redeemers were virtually wiped out battling Graviton on one of their early missions.

Solo agents of the C.S.A. include Ms. Marvel while she was employed with the Department of Homeland Security, but Carol recently left that posting. Other past superhuman agents have included Anachronism (Julia Carpenter), who served on Freedom Force, then joined our Avengers, and is currently a rogue; Battlestar (Lemar Hoskins) was U.S. Agent's comrade back in the day, but he resisted registration and is now incarcerated; the Deathwatch, who all went rogue and turned to crime; and the Juggernaut (Cain Marko), a former C.S.A.-sanctioned bounty hunter. Currently, Deadpool is employed as a C.S.A. bounty hunter. Some other notable agents include Mike Clemson, who defected to a secret government cabal called the Conclave, and Andrea Sterman, staff psychiatrist currently being held as a permanent guest of the V-Battalion to prevent her from revealing their secrets.

The current board of the Commission is made up of:

Dr. Valerie Cooper, Chairperson: From Project: Wideawake to Freedom Force to the U.S. Agent to X-Factor to S.T.A.R. to the O*N*E, Dr. Cooper's legacy to our nation is already vast. Her duties are mostly restricted to the O*N*E these days, but she remains the guiding force of the Commission. Her history is not without some minor scandals, but overall, she's fought to keep the C.S.A. clean. She is the best friend the super hero community has in Washington, and we're lucky to have her.

Henry Peter Gyrich: I was Chairman of the Avengers when Gyrich was first assigned to us as our government liaison, and his overbearing, heavy-handed tactics led to some of the worst friction in our team's history, as Gyrich demeaned our security measures, questioned our hiring practices, and ultimately began restricting everything from the use of our Quinjets to the number of members we could have on our team. We eventually had our day in court and forced Gyrich to back off, until he was finally forced to step down by the Vision, with Raymond Sikorski taking his place. Gyrich has been a key player in the government's mutant affairs programs, notably Project: Wideawake and the Mutant Registration Act, and worked on the original draft of the Superhuman Registration Act. He also served the Commission during the Captain America identity crisis, and served as liaison to S.H.I.E.L.D. Gyrich had an unfortunate incident when Baron Wolfgang von Strucker took control of him using nanoprobes, causing him to act out a plot to decimate the Earth's superhuman population using similar nanoprobes and hard-air molecules. He forced Nomad (Jack Monroe) to become the assassin Scrooge and assist him, but the plot came to an end thanks to the efforts of the Thunderbolts. Because Gyrich was not in complete control of his faculties he was not fired, but instead demoted to serve as liaison to the Black Panther. During his time with T'Challa, Gyrich steadily proved himself to the Avengers, and we allowed him to resume service as our liaison, up until our recent disbandment. When the Avengers folded, Gyrich returned to full-time service in the C.S.A., and he serves as Acting Co-Chair with Dallas Riordan while Dr. Cooper is absent with O*N*E duties. "Bad News Pete" is still not an easy man to respect, but he genuinely loves his country, and has only ever intended the best.

General Lewis Hayworth: Along with General Craig Halstead and Peter Standish, General Hayworth represents the U.S. Armed Forces' interests in our country's superhuman resources. Hayworth has been a long-time friend of Stark Industries since the days of my father, and I supplied arms to him for years, until I ended my work in munitions. Even then, Hayworth has maintained an interest in the company's other innovations and military hardware and I worked closely with him during my time as U.S. Secretary of Defense. Hayworth has been in charge of most of the country's attempts to design new super-soldiers like Cap, and his subjects included the unfortunate G.I. Max, the psychotic Nuke, and the super-weapon S.I.C.C.A.D.E. He currently serves as commanding officer to the U.S. Agent. General Hayworth is the best friend I have in the military, and I can only imagine that he's made of the stuff men like MacArthur or Eisenhower were.

George Mathers: I know little about Mathers, other than his position as Central Intelligence Agency representative on the board. He was a party to the Captain America identity crisis. I understand that Mathers is very concerned about the country's increasing reliance upon S.H.I.E.L.D. (an international organization) to manage matters of national security, and so he involved himself in setting up clearance for S.T.A.R. and O*N*E so that the country might have alternatives to S.H.I.E.L.D. Director Hill is obviously not his biggest fan.

Dallas Riordan: Descended from a member of the V-Battalion, Dallas was once a humble servant of the New York Mayor's Office when she became a liaison to the Thunderbolts, back in the days when that team was masquerading as heroes. She became romantically involved with Atlas, and that cost her her career when the Thunderbolts were exposed. The V-Battalion stepped in and trained her to be the new Citizen V, and she took to the role for a while, up until she was ordered to assassinate Gyrich while he was controlled by Strucker's nanoprobes. A fight with the Crimson Cowl cost her a broken spine, but after Atlas was killed, his ionic energies bonded to her, and he eventually manifested himself in a sort of possession of her form. The two of them were eventually separated, and Dallas regained full mobility plus additional ionic powers, which she used in the Thunderbolts as Vantage. She later left the Thunderbolts to join Homeland Security, but when Atlas drew upon their old link for more power, it cost her both her powers and mobility. With Carol's departure from the C.S.A., Dallas has assumed most of her responsibilities, and maintains liaisons with the Thunderbolts — although now in a strictly professional manner. She and Gyrich are Acting Co-Chairs while Dr. Cooper is on leave.

Adrian Simmish: He manages field operations for the C.S.A.'s special agents, arranging staff, tactics and special equipment. Simmish and his assistant Wesley Werner manage personnel files on all active Guardsmen, O*N*E, and S.T.A.R. staff in the country. He also manages overseas contact with the U.S. Agent while he's on detached service. I hear that he's very demanding on matters of recruitment: he only wants the best men in the field because otherwise he has to do the clean-up.

Orville Sanderson: Federal Bureau of Investigation liaison to the C.S.A. Sanderson isn't as outspoken as the other board members. I haven't dealt with him often because years of reports from Senator Byrd convinced Sanderson to pass on contracts with my company, favoring rivals of mine such as Rossum, Hammer and Cordco. He started to come around while I was Secretary of Defense, but never communicates with my offices directly, usually making his aide Martin Barrow act as a go-between.

Raymond Sikorski: Another of our one-time Avengers security liaisons, Sikorski became our representative through trickery on the part of the Vision, who used mental coercion to force Gyrich to step down and nominate Sikorski, knowing that Sikorski would be more pliant to his needs. The Vision's attempt at peaceful world domination ultimately failed, but Sikorski stayed on board. It was small wonder that he wound up assisting Vigilance, the project to dismantle and wipe the Vision's programming. I wouldn't be surprised if Sikorski harbored a grudge all of those years. Sikorski was a fine liaison compared to Gyrich, but even he had to put his foot down on matters of policy, and he was ultimately the one to revoke our national security clearance. That was the last we saw of Sikorski as we wound up turning to the United Nations to replace the support the U.S. had given us; when we finally returned to U.S. sponsorship, we received liaison Duane Freeman, rather than dredge up hurt feelings with Sikorski. My communications with Sikorski since then have been entirely business-related. It's strange to say it, but I have a better relationship with Gyrich these days than I do Sikorski.

DAREDEVIL

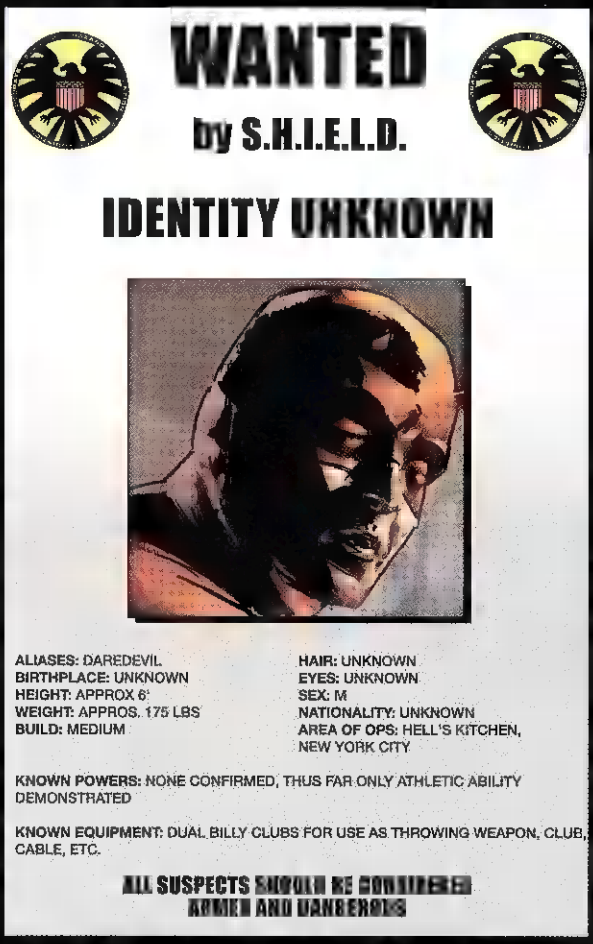
Of all the heroes who debuted during the "first wave" set in motion by the Fantastic Four, Matt Murdock remains the only one who has never joined the Avengers. Although it remains legally unconfirmed at this writing, Murdock gained superhuman senses when, as a youth, he was blinded by a transport spill of radioactive waste (Much to my chagrin, this waste was determined to stem from a Stark project during my father's tenure as CEO.). However, Murdock overcame his blindness to graduate from law school with top honors and form a partnership with his classmate Foggy Nelson (now tragically deceased). When Murdock's father was murdered by underworld connections, Matt took the identity of Daredevil to avenge the death and maintained it as a force for justice.

While most of Murdock's energy has gone against comparatively down-to-earth criminals, usually in Hell's Kitchen, at times he's been faced with far higher threat levels, fighting my acquaintance/enemy Sunturion and even the likes of Ultron and Dr. Doom, who once switched bodies with him (an experience I don't envy). We've worked together on occasion, and Murdock's proven his worth even against Avengers-level threats such as the Zodiac, the Hood Brothers, and Magneto. The Grey Gargoyle once turned both of us into stone simultaneously, which certainly counts like the sort of experience that should give people a common bond, although a somewhat more awkward connection is our mutual past romances with Natasha Romanova, the Black Widow. He's also one of the few heroes who have seen me at my lowest, when, attending a party during my months of deep alcoholism, I stumbled into one of his fights with Crossbow. He's never mentioned the incident in any of our subsequent meetings, and I appreciate that. The only really tense moment he's provided the Avengers was when Thor, Cap, and I confronted him after his defeat of Nuke, a rampaging renegade super-soldier who wreaked havoc in Hell's Kitchen on behalf of Daredevil's most persistent enemy, Wilson Fisk, the Kingpin of Crime.

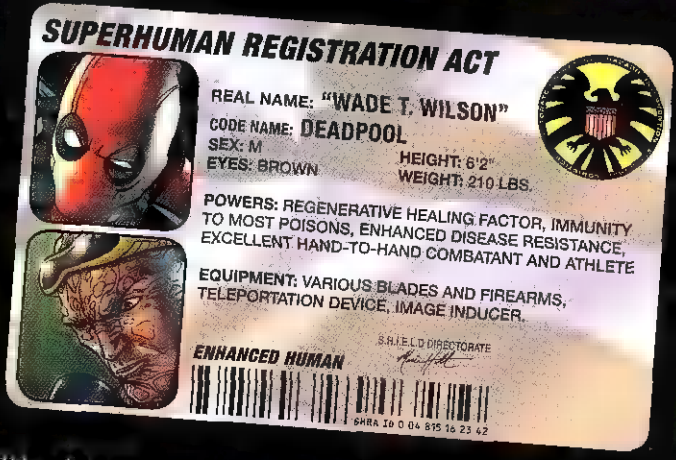
I suppose I should comment separately on my experiences with Matt Murdock, attorney, but since my corporations have always had their own legal staffs, we've rarely met under any circumstances but social functions (where I've also met Fisk), such as when he was Assistant District Attorney. However, over the years Nelson and Murdock have admirably defended various Avengers, as well as the FF (one of their earliest clients) and others in our clique.

Daredevil once enjoyed a rather good relationship with S.H.I.E.L.D., assisting them against Zodiac, Hydra, Fisk's Emissaries of Evil, and others. Unfortunately, his reputation has been much shakier of late, since Sam Silke, a gangster desperate for a deal after a failed coup against Fisk, gave the FBI testimony that Daredevil and Murdock were one and the same. The feds rejected Silke's deal, but the allegation reached the press and Murdock's life turned chaotic. Recently, Fisk offered his own deal for proof of Murdock's identity, and an FBI director, frustrated both at the agency's inability to prove a case against Fisk and at Murdock's repeated denials, accepted. Fisk then manipulated Daredevil into a fight with the assassin Bullseye, where his spilled blood cleared the way for DNA matching between attorney and vigilante. The seemingly cleared Fisk was arrested on a previously unused charge, but so was Murdock. Both were sent to Ryker's Island, and thus far, neither the influence of Reed Richards, Natasha, or I have been able to challenge Murdock's imprisonment, an issue that, regretably, must remain tabled during the current crisis.

However, a second, unidentified Daredevil accompanied Cage to an informal post-Stamford conference of super-heroes, a Daredevil who seems too experienced and assured to be a newcomer to the game. This character's identity and motives (does he want to cast doubt on the exposure of Murdock's identity, take up a fallen mantle, or merely cash in on a pre-existing reputation) remain a mystery to me, and, unfortunately, Cage is neither willing nor available to answer any questions. The most obvious suspect is Cage's longtime partner from Heroes for Hire, Iron Fist, but there's no shortage of athletic types in his rolodex: Bob Diamond, el Aguila, Shang-Chi, Moon Knight, Paladin, maybe Jack Flag, Vincente, Shocker, the Tumbler, one of Silver Sable's Wild Pack, or someone even lower on the radar. For all I know, Murdock's ex-main girlfriend Elektra learned to shape-shift. Or perhaps the man in prison is a Skrull impersonating his client. Maybe we'll see just how good at unmasking someone the registration act can really be, as this mystery Daredevil has allied himself with Captain America's rebel faction.


WANTED
by S.H.I.E.L.D.
IDENTITY UNKNOWN
ALIASES: DAREDEVIL
BIRTHPLACE: UNKNOWN
HEIGHT: APPROX 6'
WEIGHT: APPROX. 175 LBS
BUILD: MEDIUM
HAIR: UNKNOWN
EYES: UNKNOWN
SEX: M
NATIONALITY: UNKNOWN
AREA OF OPS: HELL'S KITCHEN, NEW YORK CITY
KNOWN POWERS: NONE CONFIRMED, THUS FAR ONLY ATHLETIC ABILITY DEMONSTRATED
KNOWN EQUIPMENT: DUAL BILLY CLUBS FOR USE AS THROWING WEAPON, CLUB, CABLE, ETC.
ALL SUSPECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS

DEADPOOL


SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: "WADE T. WILSON"
CODE NAME: DEADPOOL
SEX: M
EYES: BROWN
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 210 LBS.
POWERS: REGENERATIVE HEALING FACTOR, IMMUNITY TO MOST POISONS, ENHANCED DISEASE RESISTANCE, EXCELLENT HAND-TO-HAND COMBATANT AND ATHLETE
EQUIPMENT: VARIOUS BLADES AND FIREARMS, TELEPORTATION DEVICE, IMAGE INDUCER.
S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTORATE
ENHANCED HUMAN
SHRA ID 0 04 815 16 23 42

The early life of "Wade Wilson" (that doesn't seem to be his real name, but it's the closest thing we have so far) is a chilling example of the worst-case scenario that the Superhuman Registration Act is intended to forestall: a young amateur vigilante taking the law into his own hands and ending up a deadlier threat than many of the opponents he fights. The incessant jokes that later earned him the nickname "Merc with a Mouth" don't weigh in as a plus, either; murder isn't funny.

From what S.H.I.E.L.D. has pieced together, the pre-Wilson became a mercenary in his late teens and prided himself on only taking assignments to kill people who "deserved" death — one more young punk who figured murder was somehow "noble" as long as the victim was guilty of a crime. Somehow he got hold of an early prototype of what became my image inducer technology, which I've tinkered with on and off since college, and he used it to create an instant new identity whenever an assignment went sour. After a particularly disastrous botched assignment, he found sanctuary with Mercedes Wilson and her husband Wade, whose name the merc intended to take over as his latest identity. However, he accidentally killed Mercedes instead, and this violation of his self-imposed "moral code" sent him over the edge, convincing him he truly was Wade Wilson and, even after eventually learning otherwise, he's kept the name to this day. There's been some dispute about the details of this story, but to date S.H.I.E.L.D.'s heard no other.

Eventually Wilson, having contracted cancer, became an agent of Canada's Department K, which stabilized him using a healing factor distilled from Wolverine's. In return, Wilson put his undeniable talents to use in an early prototype of the Weapon P.R.I.M.E. team before washing out of the program after apparently killing teammate Strikeback, although the details of this incident, like far too much else about Wilson's life, remain elusive. Sent to a Hospice facility for treatment, he became the latest test subject for Doctor Killebrew's unsanctioned and inhumane experiments, but his stay ended when he led the patients in a rebellion and escaped. He returned to mercenary work with the name "Deadpool" and fewer restrictions on himself, basically meaning he decided killing non-criminals was "okay," too. However, since his healing factor's repeated reconstruction of his brain seems to have left his sanity in question, it's unclear whether he could ever really be brought to justice for his crimes. At some point he acquired a teleportation device and has handled it as adeptly as he's handled the image inducer. For all his faults, the man's clearly sharper than his reputation suggests.

For a time he received treatment from another Canadian agency, Department H, founder of Alpha Flight. I'm still waiting for data on whether he sought it voluntarily or received it while in custody for his crimes — considering how Departments K and H both somehow lead into a version of Weapon X, Canada's super programs are even harder to pin down than ours — but clearly he later escaped. His clientele list includes the Kingpin, Hammerhead, the Taskmaster, and other high-ranking criminals, and I'd be naive if I didn't suspect that the U.S. government, maybe even S.H.I.E.L.D. itself, has employed him a time or two as well; a lot of relevant data remains classified even under these circumstances. He briefly joined a U.S. incarnation of Weapon X under the reprehensible Malcolm "Director" Colcord, whose crimes are still being uncovered. To his credit, Deadpool rebelled against Colcord's murderous mandate and was literally liquidated in return, but his healing factor eventually restored him.

Over the years Deadpool's followed his share of generous impulses, providing aid to Wolverine, X-Force, and others on occasion, maintaining close ties to the mutant community despite his own non-mutant status. Although the role he played in an Avengers mission during Kilhoonger's mercifully brief involvement with the team remains a bit vague, his participation in Landau, Luckman, and Lake's so-called "Mithras Directive" apparently, per Captain America's testimony, saved the Earth from some alien menace or another. Most recently he's taken an informal role in Cable's utopian efforts on Providence (an entirely different beast) but the two may be estranged since Deadpool, with what I have to admit is more optimism than I'd have in his place, has again accepted government work, despite his miserable in K and X, in a commission from the newly chartered Hammer Agency to become a licensed bounty hunter, bringing in heroes who reject registration. He was drafted into the job by C.S.A. Agent Ruffner after Deadpool was defeated by the Great Lakes Champions in Wisconsin. I suppose we need all the help we can get, but I just hope they keep him far away from me. Listening to Spider-Man's jokes can be tough enough without smart-alecks in stereo. Maybe if I threaten to retroactively bill him for the image inducer…

FALCON

Considering who he is, I'm not surprised that Sam is on Steve's side. I doubt that Sam even considered the wider implications of his decision — Steve has a knack for making others fall under his potent spell. Sam is a free thinker, and he's had his differences with Steve in the past. But whereas my problems with Steve divide us, Sam and Steve always seem to grow closer by reconciling their differences and fixing their problems. Maybe if I'd made this analysis sooner, I would've asked Sam to intermediate on my behalf. But Sam's never been particularly close to me, or the other Avengers for that matter. He was forced on the team as a "token" African-American, and probably wouldn't have served at all if Cap hadn't been there to smooth things over.

Consider Sam's history: before he met Cap he was a pimp nicknamed "Snap," just a small-time hood. He'd come from a good family, raised by a minister, but his father's death was so hard on him that it was as if he'd become another person. The Red Skull (Johann Shmidt, a man I know you know all too well, as he infiltrated your administration as Secretary of Defense Dell Rusk after my tenure) used a Cosmic Cube to make Sam someone Steve would choose as a sidekick, just so he could use his control over Sam as an ace in the hole later. It was a pretty awful thing to do, but Sam's come out of it very nicely — Steve beat the Skull in the end, and while Sam's had occasional lapses into his violent "Snap" persona, he's actually a better man for what the Red Skull did to him (not that I'd ever say it to his face).

WANTED

by S.H.I.E.L.D.

SAMUEL "SAM" WILSON

ALIASES: FALCON, SNAP
BIRTHPLACE: NEW YORK CITY, NY
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 240 LBS.
BUILD: LARGE
HAIR: BLACK
EYES: BROWN
SEX: M
NATIONALITY: U.S.A.
AREA OF OPS: HARLEM, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

KNOWN POWERS: TELEPATHIC RAPPORT WITH BIRDS.

KNOWN EQUIPMENT: ARTIFICIAL HARD-LIGHT WINGS ENABLE FLIGHT.

ALL SUSPECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Sam was merely a formidable athlete for most of his career until King T'Challa of Wakanda (the Black Panther) designed his first flight harness. Utilizing that suit, he became one of the best aerial combatants on Earth, maybe even my equal in hand-to-hand aerial combat. When he upgraded the suit for the first time he turned to my company, and we constructed a suit that enhanced his physical abilities and designed a new cybernetic link that would let him control the harness' wings even when detached from the suit. But when he needed another upgrade he went back to T'Challa. The current suit uses wings made of "hard light" (would you believe T'Challa beat me to the patent by two days?), and are undetectable when retracted from the suit. Sam's only power is to communicate with birds. Originally, he could only talk to his pet falcon Redwing, but he can summon up entire flocks now, and "see" through their eyes.

Sam's made some attempts at politics, but his chosen profession is social worker, and he's never put much effort into keeping his double life secret. He's like a legend in Harlem to civilians and law enforcement alike because he's been a criminal, a regular man, and a hero — he knows how everyone lives. The Falcon is to Harlem what Captain America is to the entire U.S. — a symbol, a beacon, a champion. He saves the innocents, gives the deserving a second chance, and throws the bad guys behind bars. He could have been a powerful force in the Fifty State Initiative. Maybe there's still time for him to come around, but I fear he won't listen.

Sam's made his choices, and regardless of how I may feel, he's Steve's friend, not mine. Now that it's come to a fight, he'll have to learn first-hand what I'm capable of. I recommend keeping any confrontation with him to the ground to remove his advantage in the air. If he takes to the skies, I'd just as soon let him run rather than allow him to plan an ambush. Sam has to come in close to fight, so ranged combat is the best means of dispatching him. An overload of electricity will shut down the suit. If he's still conscious, he should be rendered unconscious to prevent him from using his ability to communicate with birds. It may sound like a laughable power, but if he brings in a flock he'll interfere with targeting and movement, plus he can use his birds for reconnaissance and espionage. The Falcon's friendship with Captain America will likely also win him the respect of the other dissidents, and they may turn to him for leadership should Cap be absent. It's best to clip the wings and silence him ASAP.

SALLY FLOYD

Real Name: Sally Floyd
Aliases: None
Identity: No dual identity
Occupation: Newspaper journalist
Citizenship: U.S.A.
Known Relatives: Ken (ex-husband), Minnie (daughter, deceased)
Group Affiliation: The Alternative (newspaper); possibly Captain America's "Secret Avengers"
Education: College degree in journalism
Height: 5'6"
Weight: 127 lbs.
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Dark brown

History: Sally Floyd is an acerbic reporter for the self-described "New York's hippest newspaper," The Alternative, the liberals' answer to J. Jonah Jameson's right-leaning Daily Bugle. She has a reputation for going for the throat when she's off on one of her pet peeves concerning both real and perceived violations of civil liberties, as New York Congressman Sylvester Sykes can personally attest. Floyd (and her paper) have come out against the Superhuman Registration Act, questioning whether it violates the Constitution and excessively infringes upon the rights of superhumans to live their lives as they see fit, rather than acknowledging the necessity of such registration (and the accompanying training requirements) for the betterment of the superhuman community and to avoid a repeat of Stamford.

From what I have gathered about her personal life, Sally was raised a typical middle-class woman, earning an undergraduate degree in journalism and eventually getting a decent-paying job at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution before landing the Alternative job and moving to New York. Happily married at the time, she gave birth to her first child, Minnie, and seemed to have it all — only to have it all fall apart through no fault of her own.

A couple of years ago Floyd had written a series of articles entitled "The Mutant Diaries," which looked at the lives and loves of the average mutant. The purpose was to show the "human" side of these publicly-perceived "aliens among us" and demonstrate to the average human that mutants were "just like us," only with extra abilities and, in some cases, extra appendages. Then, a year ago, Floyd took a sabbatical from work to tend to her dying daughter, during which time her life fell apart, ultimately resulting in her being divorced and falling into a bottle, an all too easy choice to make when life's heartaches catch up with you. It was only recently, in the wake of M-Day, that Floyd publicly shared the details of that year of her life in her column, now entitled "The Ex-Mutant Diaries." Along with the stories of how the now-depowered mutants were adjusting to life without their abilities, she shared the pain of watching her toddler daughter's mutant powers slowly de-age her before her eyes, until Minnie finally passed the point of viability and died, despite the medical specialist's best efforts (and leaving me to wonder what if someone like Reed or myself had been consulted, could Minnie have somehow been saved, or at least been placed in stasis until a cure could be found for her condition?). That column attracted the hatred of self-loathing mutant serial killer the Ghoul, who up to that point had tried to have a "relationship" with Floyd by sending her the pictures of the ex-mutants he had killed, but who then turned on her when she revealed she was "unpure," having produced a mutant child. With the X-Men's aid, the Ghoul was taken into custody, where he now awaits trial for the many innocents he killed during his murder spree.

Since the passing of the Superhuman Registration Act, Floyd has taken a decided anti-Registration stance and has set out to report on the so-called "plight of the unregistered heroes." She soon made contact with a faction of unregistered combatants headlined by Battlestar (Lamar Hoskins) and Typeface (Gordon Thomas), and was taken to their warehouse hideout in Manhattan for a series of exclusive interviews. Unbeknownst to Floyd, we followed her the next time she rendezvoused with the faction and arrested nearly all of the unregistered combatants assembled there, sending them to Negative Zone Prison Alpha. Floyd, who we still believe knows the whereabouts of Captain America's Secret Avengers, was next seen speaking with an unidentified hooded contact (who some of our analysts believe was Nick Fury) in New York's Chinatown. The next day, Eric Marshall, a National Security Agency agent attached to S.H.I.E.L.D., led a team of Cape-Killer agents into the Alternative's offices and arrested Floyd and Neil Crawford, the Alternative's Managing Editor, for conspiracy to commit terrorist acts and harboring the identity of an unregistered combatant in violation of the Superhuman Registration Act. They are currently en route to a S.H.I.E.L.D. interrogation facility.

GOLIATH

Bill Foster's powers are pretty straight forward — using Pym Particles, he can grow to twenty-five feet, increasing his mass in exponential proportion to his height, with his strength and resistance growing proportionately. Though his powers have come and gone over the years, the basic idea remains the same.

My first introduction to Bill Foster (Goliath, also Giant-Man, Black Goliath) was his remarkable paper with Jim Kakalios on extra-dimensional manipulations of the Planck constant, and I quickly had them hired for Stark Enterprises. When my teammate Hank Pym (Giant-Man, etc) found himself stuck at superhuman size, I sent him Foster as a research associate, and the two provided some exemplary results. With Pym's blessing, Foster adapted and improved the Giant Man growth process, taking the name Black Goliath. Immediately recognizing Foster when he hit the newspapers, I quickly rehired him to head up Stark West, where he and his gang of "Whiz Kids" made some remarkable advances. Still, Foster kept putting on the costume, fighting second-tier villains such as Atom-Smasher (Ronald English), the Hijacker (Howard Mitchell), and Stilt-Man (Wilbur Day). Though he kept it secret at the time, he contracted radiation poisoning from his bout with Atom-Smasher, and began a slow decline. Looking for clues to a cure, he took a position at the U.S. energy research facility Project PEGASUS (changing his name to Giant-Man and striking up a strong friendship with Ben Grimm there), during which time he revealed his illness and almost sacrificed his life saving the universe from the threat of the N'th Man (Thomas Lightner). Nearing death, he stumbled across a potential cure in an A.I.M. lab, but chose to use it to save Ben Grimm instead, who was then dying from the M.O.D.O.K.-created Virus X. However, fate offered him a reprieve when he and Spider-Woman (Jessica Drew) encountered the brother of the original Atom-Smasher, and her toxin-resistant blood provided a cure for the radiation poisoning which was consuming him.

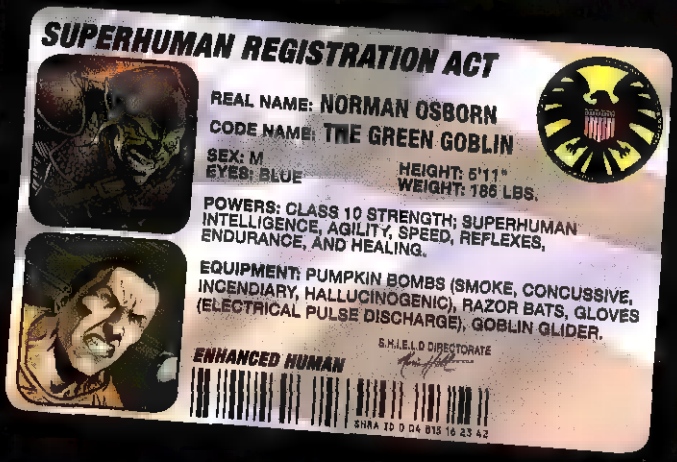
WANTED
by S.H.I.E.L.D.
WILLIAM BARRETT "BILL" FOSTER
ALIASES: GOLIATH, GIANT-MAN, BLACK GOLIATH
BIRTHPLACE: WATTS, LOS ANGELES, CA
HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 200 LBS.
BUILD: LARGE
HAIR: BROWN
EYES: BROWN
SEX: M
NATIONALITY: U.S.A.
OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK
KNOWN POWERS: ABLE TO INCREASE SIZE TO FEET; STRENGTH PROPORTIONATE TO SIZE (CLASS 10 AT 25 FEET)
KNOWN EQUIPMENT: NONE
ALL SUSPECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Cured of his illness, Foster also lost his mental control of the Pym Particles, but again couldn't give up the super hero life. After briefly working with the Avengers on the California compound, he took a job working for the High Evolutionary and worked in his spare hours on restoring his own growth ability. When he discovered the High Evolutionary intended to super-evolve humanity, he apparently sacrificed his chance at restoration to summon the Avengers. However, the team freed him and he did manage to restore his powers, joining the fight against the Evolutionary. He briefly returned to work for me at Stark West, but soon left to work with Dr. Pym at an ill-considered project to grow super-sized plants.

After working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Foster turned to studying other extra-dimensional particles, and he changed his name to Goliath while aiding the Thing against Cauldron the Scrambling Man (and hitting up Grimm for funding). I'm not quite sure why he's signed up with Rogers, save that so many look up to that man (and with such good reason). As one of America's earlier costumed African-American heroes, I think Bill sees himself as having a role to uphold, and standing against the government has to be eating him up inside. With all that Hank Pym and I have done for Foster, and with the help of his close friend Ben Grimm, I'd tend to believe we could convince him to sign up in short order if we could only get him away from the others. Foster has always been in love with the idea of being a hero — why is it that fighting against something has always seemed so much more heroic that fighting for something?

One area of potential hazard is in his relationship with the Black Panther. The pair first met when Foster was working with Hank not long after the Black Panther first joined the Avengers, and they struck up a friendship there. Foster has since worked with the Wakandan government on a variety of projects, particularly with regards to the stabilization of the deamplifying effects of the Wakandan Vibranium, and though they've certainly rarely teamed as heroes (they most recently did so when Kilmonger assembled a villain strike force in New York), they certainly have immense respect for each other as scientists, men, and friends. I'd have to guess that of the people the Panther respects most in the super hero community, Foster and Rogers have to rank high. I know T'Challa opposes our program but, as the sovereign of a foreign nation, has officially pledged neutrality and won't support the rebels overtly. Still, re-recruiting Foster could prove immeasurably useful in assuring that T'Challa doesn't consider offering them covert support.

GREEN GOBLIN


SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: NORMAN OSBORN
CODE NAME: THE GREEN GOBLIN
SEX: M
EYES: BLUE
HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 186 LBS.
POWERS: CLASS 10 STRENGTH; SUPERHUMAN INTELLIGENCE, AGILITY, SPEED, REFLEXES, ENDURANCE, AND HEALING.
EQUIPMENT: PUMPKIN BOMBS (SMOKE, CONCUSSIVE, INCENDIARY, HALLUCINOGENIC), RAZOR BATS, GLOVES (ELECTRICAL PULSE DISCHARGE), GOBLIN GLIDER.
S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTORATE
ENHANCED HUMAN
SHRA ID 0 04 815 16 23 42

I've known Norman Osborn from a variety of back-up affairs, before I was aware of his extracurricular activities and superhuman abilities. I know he possessed the triple-A qualities of so many of my peers in the business elite: affluent, arrogant, and aggressive. He and his partner Mendel Stromm (aka the Robot Master) published some fascinating journal articles on the groundbreaking, albeit controversial subject matters of human strength augmentation. Little did I know his smiles and extra-firm handshake hinted something sinister.

My time with Peter Parker has afforded me the opportunity to know the real Norman Osborn, a monster born from a lineage of monsters, liberated from the confines of mortality by his chemically induced insanity. Osborn has apparently been part of a conspiracy dating back for decades where several wealthy industrialists have directly or indirectly funded research enabling the creation of many of the super-villains we've faced repeatedly over the years. This funding was intended to keep the super hero community preoccupied with reacting to grand threats rather than focusing on the misdeeds of big business. Osborn, however, became one of his own creations when Stromm's strength-enhancement formula exploded in his face, giving rise to the Green Goblin. Early on, Osborn exhibited signs of a split personality oscillating between the Goblin crime lord and the innovative business tycoon. Lately, he seems to have settled into being the Goblin with or without the mask. He was the first to leverage knowledge of Spider-Man's secret identity and went on to seduce and impregnate Peter's girlfriend, Gwen Stacy, who secretly gave birth to their twins in Paris, France. The Goblin later kidnapped Stacy and pushed her off the Brooklyn Bridge before Spider-Man's eyes. Subsequently, he was apparently killed, impaled on his own glider, but his regenerative abilities were underestimated. His son, Peter's college roommate Harry Osborn, also assumed the Goblin persona and died after experimenting with his father's Goblin formula.

While the world believed him dead, Osborn fled to Europe for several years where he raised his twin children, posing as a benevolent mentor while shunning Parker, killed Pete's mother and abandoned them. He then returned to America to resume his torture of Parker in person. He kidnapped Parker's Aunt May, switching her with a gentle duplicate who passed away of natural causes. He managed to detach himself from allegations that he was the Green Goblin and reintegrate himself into society. Meanwhile, royal with Parker buying his workplace, the Daily Bugle, and funding Dr. Miles Warren's creation of multiple clones of Peter and Gwen. One clone, Ben Reilly, was fooled into believing he was the true Peter Parker until Reilly was murdered by the Goblin and disintegrated like other clones. The Parkers were expecting their first child during this time, and Parker has hesitantly admitted his suspicion that Mary Jane's miscarriage may be linked to Norman's machinations. Osborn enjoyed some time back in the helm of his corporation, getting away with murder. There is evidence of an underground cult that practically worships him, and to a ritual called the Gathering of the Five that evidently left Osborn even more manic. Peter told me Norman even kidnapped him once to try to make him the next heir to the Goblin legacy.

However, Osborn's hubris made him sloppy. His murder of an Oscorp employee and Bugle reporter Ben Ridder attracted the attention of investigative journalist Jessica Jones, who helped finally expose Osborn as the Green Goblin. When Osborn threatened to kill Jones and her unborn daughter, Luke Cage (the baby's father) publicly defeated the half-costumed Osborn. Osborn broke free from his arrest, but Spider-Man foiled him. He was tried and convicted on multiple counts. Yet, even from his jail cell, he managed to assemble villains into a Sinister Twelve, have May Parker buried alive, and then bribe Parker to liberate him from imprisonment. May Parker was saved while Osborn fled until S.H.I.E.L.D. agents picked him up outside of Paris and returned him to his jail cell under heightened security.

While we've allowed Baron Zemo to maintain control over the small army of super-villains he has amassed at Dirt Flats, New Mexico, we've been keeping a few of the more notorious new "Thunderbolts" on a shorter leash in Stark Tower. Until the Fifty States Initiative is ready to launch, we have an immediate need for operatives with experience in superhuman combat. That's where Osborn and his peers come into play. With our cunning cyber nanite technology flowing through his bloodstream, we can ensure that Osborn completes the objectives we assign him, yet can be incapacitated the moment he deviates from those objectives. He was once a shrewd business man; if all goes well, perhaps we can see to it that those managerial skills are used for the betterment of society once again.

The hard question remains: is redemption not meant for the wicked? Surely there are few on Earth more wretched than this man; yet, perhaps great things could be accomplished if his brilliant intellect and abilities were used for the good of our country (while kept on one of my electric "leashes"). It is a question of utilitarianism versus justice, and perhaps the pragmatic decision to put Osborn to good use for America may yield the idealistic outcome of redemption for a lost soul. I fear my friend Peter Parker may disagree.

HERCULES

Son of Zeus, ruler of the Olympian gods. Grandson of Cronus, ruler of the Titans. Great-grandson of Gaea, the physical embodiment of Mother Earth. Born over 3000 years ago, Hercules' celebrated Twelve Labors are literally the stuff of legend. You would think that this experienced warrior would have the wisdom to appreciate the benefits of super hero registration. You would think that, as a god, he would have a paternalistic relationship with mortals and appreciate the responsibility those with great power owe to those with little power. You would think, as a former S.H.I.E.L.D. agent, he would see the advantages of once again becoming a licensed super hero.

But he doesn't. And, unfortunately, Hercules is the poster child for why the Superhuman Registration Act is necessary. Yes, he's not inexperienced like the Young Avengers or Runaways. To the contrary, he has more experience than most of us combined. Hercules' problem is his recklessness — the man doesn't know his own strength, especially when he's inebriated, which is often the case. As an alcoholic myself, I can personally attest to the fact that crime fighting and booze do not make for a good combination. I thought Hercules had learned this lesson when he nearly killed the super-villain Constrictor (Frank Payne) while preventing him from hijacking an armored car, as the Constrictor later sued for damages and was awarded all of Hercules' Olympian gold. But, since Hercules eventually won his treasure back in a poker game, I think any potential lesson was lost.

WANTED
by S.H.I.E.L.D.

HERACLES

ALIASES: HERCULES
BIRTHPLACE: THEBES, GREECE
HEIGHT: 6'5"
[redacted]T: 325 LBS.
[redacted]

HAIR: DARK BROWN
[redacted]: BLUE
[redacted] M
[redacted] OLYMPUS
[redacted] OF [redacted]S: OLYMPUS, [redacted]
NEW YORK

KNOWN [redacted] CLASS 100 STRENGTH; RAPID HEALING RATE; RESISTANCE TO PHYSICAL INJURY; MUSCULATURE [redacted] NO FATIGUE POISONS

KNOWN [redacted] VIRTUALLY INDESTRUCTABLE [redacted] MACE" CRAFTED BY HEPHAESTUS FROM ADAMANTINE

ALL SUSPECTS SHOULD BE [redacted]
[redacted] AND [redacted]

Hercules' most endearing qualities are his bravery and unwavering sense of loyalty. And I believe it's his fierce loyalty to Captain America that swayed his decision to join the resistance movement. Hercules has recently lost a few very close friends and family members, which puts him in a vulnerable emotional state. We know he reacted badly to Thor's death during Ragnarok, showing up intoxicated to a memorial service for fallen Avengers and berating us for not honoring Thor, who we didn't even realize was dead at the time. Now an informant (Asterius the Minotaur, one of the monsters conscripted into S.H.I.E.L.D.'s "Howling Commandos" unit who is knowledgeable in Olympian affairs) has provided me with intelligence suggesting that Zeus, Hercules' father, was seemingly killed when an evil god from a rival pantheon (Mikaboshi of the Kami) laid siege to Mount Olympus. Given that time in Olympus passes differently than time on Earth, it's difficult to pinpoint exactly how long ago Zeus' alleged "death" occurred, but we suspect the loss of Hercules' father figure also played a role in his decision to side with Captain America.

However, loyalty isn't the only thing that motivates Hercules. I believe his pride also influences his actions. As the son of almighty Zeus and the champion of the Olympian gods, why would Hercules need to comply with the edicts of mortal politicians? After all, that was the attitude the original Thor had toward the notion of U.S. government copyright when we first founded the Avengers years ago. Hercules has already shown his disdain for the U.S. legal system, which has constantly plagued him in the form of the property damage and sexual harassment lawsuits that follow his drinking binges.

It remains to be seen how other Olympians will react to the Superhuman Registration Act. Although Hercules is the by far the Olympian who engaged in traditional "super hero activity" the most, his half-brothers Ares (Olympian God of War) and Hermes (Messenger of the Olympians) have been known to directly involve themselves in the affairs of mortals on U.S. soil, for better or for worse. Furthermore, Hercules' half-sister, Venus (Olympian Goddess of Love) once served with the FBI in 1953 under the direction of Jimmy Woo and has recently reunited with other alumni. If the Olympian gods refuse to cooperate with the Registration Act, we always have the option of freezing the assets of the Olympian Group (headquartered right under our noses in Manhattan), which my source tells me is a business front that the Olympian pantheon uses to facilitate interference in the lives of mortals.

Regardless of how Hercules and the other Olympian Gods react to the Registration Act, it remains my firm belief that the deities of yesteryear are perfectly suited to serve as the superhuman champions of today. They possess a level of power, prestige, and name recognition that strikes fear into the hearts of mortal criminals. As such, I plan to continue our program with the goal, even if the Olympians refuse to play ball.

HUMAN TORCH

SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: JONATHAN LOWELL SPENCER STORM
CODE NAME: HUMAN TORCH
SEX: M
EYES: BLUE
HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 170 LBS.
POWERS: FLAME CONTROL: CAN PROJECT AND ABSORB FLAMES, GENERATE "NOVA" EXPLOSIONS, AND FLY AT SUPERSONIC SPEEDS.
S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTORATE
ENHANCED HUMAN

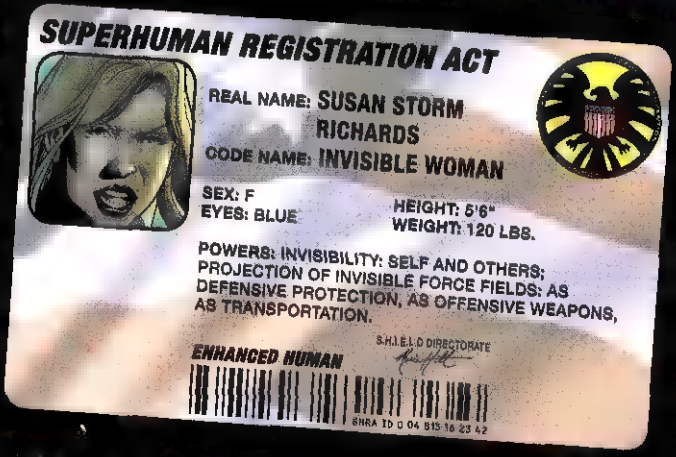
Storm is a public relations liability, given his former short-term relationship with Namorita Prince (aka Namorita), one of the New Warriors killed in Stamford. His age and immaturity links him to the Warriors in the public's mind, and though his recent hospitalization may engender public sympathy, his caught-on-film disavowal of his former girlfriend immediately before and after made him, the Fantastic Four, and all superhumans by extension appear hypocritical in the public eye. Storm is a hotheaded idiot far too often — while we all can sympathize with his loss, there are better ways to deal with pain. Further, his one-to-one destruction of Empire State University offers uncomfortable parallels to the Stamford disaster — while no one was killed (miraculously) at ESU, the relative recency of the destruction coupled with the uncomfortably familiar images of those fireballs could be disastrous to our cause. It cost Reed Richards a lot of cash to settle the lawsuits, but as I well know, money only goes so far in fixing your image. Uncomfortable though it might be to say it, his recent hospitalization might be the best case scenario for Johnny Storm — not only is his flaming appearance out of the public eye, but we can spin this to engender public sympathy for him. While we'd all prefer him undamaged — if only he'd sustained the injuries in combat with the renegades and not at the hands of fearful mob.

Johnny Storm is fundamentally your basic young hothead, and serves most of the team on that initial spotlight primarily to provide the proper weight balance and to prevent him from accidentally exposing Reed's plans. At an early age he accidentally burned an escaping criminal nearly to the point of death; you'd think even an untrained kid would realize that lobbing fireballs at gasoline trucks is a recipe for disaster. That's yet another uncomfortable parallel to Stamford, though one we shouldn't raise as perhaps might point to his later successes in balance in that early failure. Still, despite that unimpressive beginning, he's more than held his own as a member of the team over the years (how many people out there have graduated to Herald of Galactus status, even temporarily?), and has saved the day on innumerable occasions. But in the end there's a reason he's the only member of the Four not to have led the team (though to be fair, he did lead a one-shot "in the reality" Fantastic Four consisting of himself, She-Hulk [Jennifer Walters], Ant-Man [Scott Lang], and Namorita [Namorita Prince], as well as briefly leading the short-lived "Fantastic Force"), and it's not his youth. I find it interesting that he and Peter are very close to the same age and Peter's achieved amazing maturity (his incessant nervous chatter aside), while Johnny's almost become less mature over the years. I don't have much doubt that his drive to appeal to and be part of a young crowd has influenced many children to want to follow in his path as they grew. If it weren't for ESU and his ties to Namorita (not to mention his unfortunate injuries), Johnny might have been an excellent spokesman for reaching the youth demographic (granted, he and Spider-Man side by side could have almost been poster children for the effort). On the other hand, it's not like he's had a lot of choices — he's tried to go to college at least three times only to be forced out by super-villains, and has attempted at least four different careers (auto racing, acting, business, and firefighting), and at least two of those resulted in his being attacked. Much though they may want to, it may be impossible for Johnny or his sister to start a career outside the Four at this point. I'm not at all sure that I can blame him for his fear of adulthood — he's had about three serious fairly long-term relationships, each of them with obviously unobtainable women. The one with the better ending had the girlfriend leaving him to serve a world-devouring alien; another left him for the Avengers' black-cheap Quicksilver, son of the terrorist Maximoff. He married and lived with the other girlfriend for many months before learning that she was actually a Skrull (note that the ESU conflagration was a direct result of his learning that ex-wife). While I suppose I may have had a few ex-girlfriends try to kill me, at least they were all human (I think).

Where Johnny might be of real use is with regards to one of those former girlfriends: Crystal. Their break-up having been exceedingly amicable, Johnny may provide us with our closest informal tie to the Inhumans from among our allies. The last thing we can afford right now is the Inhumans' declared "war" with the United States occurring as a result of a dispute with O*N*E's General Lucas over Terrigen Mists turning into an actual war — can we fight forces both internal and external at the same time? Just as bad might be an offer of asylum to Cap's forces from the Inhumans, giving them a safe-haven from which to operate. While I'd still counsel returning the Terrigen Mists to Black Bolt (covertly keeping a small sample for study, of course), if we're not willing to do so then the Johnny-Crystal friendship may still prove a useful channel for keeping the situation stable.

Johnny is receiving the best available treatment, and is already pretty much up and around; we anticipate having him back with the team in no time. Our best course seems to be to keep him close to his family, and trust that, as always, their influence on him will keep him close by his sister's side. Given time to let the immediate impact of the Stamford tragedy die down, I think Johnny has the potential to be one of our biggest assets — a young superhero who has been completely open, worked with the authorities, and become an exemplar how how the system should work.

INVISIBLE WOMAN


SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: SUSAN STORM RICHARDS
CODE NAME: INVISIBLE WOMAN
SEX: F
EYES: BLUE
HEIGHT: 5'6"
WEIGHT: 120 LBS.
POWERS: INVISIBILITY; SELF AND OTHERS; PROJECTION OF INVISIBLE FORCE FIELDS: AS DEFENSIVE PROTECTION, AS OFFENSIVE WEAPONS, AS TRANSPORTATION.
S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTORATE
ENHANCED HUMAN

Susan is the backbone of the Fantastic Four, both the rudder to the family and the heart of the team, not to mention its most powerful member. She's also a knockout, but I'll keep that observation to myself. Her first and foremost loyalty is to her children, Franklin Benjamin Richards and Valeria Meghan Richards. Beautiful, strong, and reliably, her public approval of registration should have been a valuable asset in our PR campaign, but she seems to be evidencing doubts which make extensive public use an unwise move.

Susan Storm was raised by a single parent, Dr. Franklin Storm, her mother died when she was young. Franklin was apparently an absentee and alcoholic father, and Sue virtually grew up as a parent, always responsible for her younger brother Johnny; after finishing high school she remained at home to take care of the family. Her relationship with Reed led to her presence on the spaceflight where she gained the invisibility and force field projection powers she now bears (and to her being briefly locked away by the U.S. military the moment the team landed back on Earth). Susan has no advanced schooling and no career skills, she's briefly attended and quickly left college, and has tried her hand at both acting and substitute teaching (apparently playing on her celebrity to get the latter position), but functions primarily in the classic role of housewife and mother. She briefly left Reed and the team when he was unable to accept her role as a member of the Fantastic Four as being as important as her role as mother, but they soon reconciled. When Reed was briefly presumed dead, she capably (well, excepting that costume!) led the team in his absence, refusing to accept his loss, but as soon as he returned she went back to her usual supporting role.

She's been through a comparatively traumatic amount in her years with the Four. She's repeatedly seen her son transformed and reconstituted from child to adult and back, she's seen him possessed by aliens and enemies, kidnapped and tortured. She believed that she lost a daughter to miscarriage, only to later have her return as a grown teenager, remaining around just long enough to be transformed to fetal form and returned to Sue's womb. She's seen every member of her extended family "die" at least once, and through it all she's remained faithful to the ideal of defending her extended family against all comers. Despite appearances, she and Reed don't truly have a perfect marriage, in fact it very nearly failed early on. When their son Franklin first displayed the potential of his reality altering powers, Reed worked frantically to study this and protect his son from their effects, but was ultimately forced to shut down his own son's mind to prevent the destruction of the solar system itself. Understandably distraught, Sue took her child left the team, only returning after Franklin recovered. Other tensions played a role, notably Reed's perception of Sue's role as mother as more important in the protection of their family than her role as team member, but they soon reconciled. Reed's recent obsession with protecting them all against Dr. Doom (following Doom's use of the Richards' children in his plots) led to his invasion of Latveria and Sue's temporarily leaving him, apparently in the hopes of bringing him to his senses, but that separation was short-lived and never serious. I find it strongly telling about both their personalities that their only real problems evolved from differences in how best to protect their children — there is no stronger trait in either of them.

What's remarkable in the press coverage of this event has been that no one seems aware that Reed and Sue actually secretly lived in Stamford for a period of time under the assumed last name Benjamin (while Ben Grimm led a team consisting of himself, Johnny, Ms. Marvel (Sharon Ventura), and the Inhuman Crystal), and that had they not returned to New York long ago, their son Franklin might well now be among the dead. Susan's familiarity with Namorita Prentiss (see Namorita) and her sympathy for her brother's injuries and emotional state clearly have led her to place virtually all blame for the tragedy there on Victor and his cohorts (and perhaps understandably so); I just wish she weren't so close to the issue, so she could focus on how the Stamford disaster could have been prevented rather than on the damage it's done. I wonder if she might be blaming herself — had she still been at her Stamford home, had she opened her arms further to Namorita, had the team done more than put the Warriors on the bus and send them on their way... Too many "what if"s, for all of us.

One misguided initiative by the New York Office of Children and Family Services recently led to an attempt to remove the Richards' children to a safer environment. When Reed and Sue played along, an attack on the children's purported "new home" was immediate and convincing, and Family Services quickly relented. This experience may have colored Sue's views on registration; certainly the attack on her brother had an effect. She seems to be experiencing strong doubts with regard to her role in the conflict and while that's to be expected (how can we not question sometime which has raised so violent a response?), her doubts seem stronger than ever. Still, with a family to protect, and an injured brother to care for, Susan will undoubtedly remain in her usual role: quietly supportive. Again, however, I'd strongly advise against putting her on a public stage.

IRON MAN

Looking back on my career, one of the longest of any contemporary "super hero," I see that, far from being an example to the younger generation, I've lived a career of incredible arrogance, in my early audiences, that very irresponsibility made me the government's favorite wartime contractor and consultant, my eye more on profit margins than body counts. It wasn't until I saw the battlefield myself that I began my career as Iron Man. I became the U.S.'s premier fighter of vengeful Cold War leftovers, helped both found and fund the Avengers, and then championed the formation of S.H.I.E.L.D. I also withdrew Stark Industries from munitions, one of the few decisions I still look back on with pride.

But if I'd polished the Stark name, that of Iron Man was blackened when Justin Hammer took remote control of my armor to kill the Carnelian ambassador, framing Iron Man for murder. Although the name of my "bodyguard" was eventually cleared, the incident sent me on an alcoholic binge, perhaps my first severe surrender to the bottle but by no means my worst. That came when Obadiah Stane obtained control of Stark International, leaving me drunken and destitute. While James Rhodes took on the role of Iron Man in the newly formed West Coast Avengers, I finally regained control of both my life and my fortune, and then replaced Jim on the team. Having caught the heroism bug, Jim was later active as War Machine both on the team and alone (in plenty of his own questionable activities), and he currently serves in O.N.E., where I wish him well.

As for myself, somehow I couldn't find the middle ground between abdication and megalomania: after A.I.M. conquered the isle of Boca Caliente by co-opting a Stark satellite, I ignored the State Department's restrictions in my unsuccessful effort to depose them. But that blunder paled to my discovery that Stark technology, too dangerous to even risk patenting, had been stolen by Spymaster and sold to various criminals by Hammer, meaning I'd spent years fighting enemies of literally my own design. I rashly deactivated as much of the stolen components as I could during my "Armor Wars," attacking villain and hero alike and even demobilizing authorized extrapolations such as the government's Mandroid and Guardsman armor. When I accidentally killed a Russian operative, nothing short of the apparent death of the "renegade" Iron Man himself could calm the public. In subsequent years, scandal followed scandal as I shouldered blame for Stane's crimes, virtually forced the disbandment of the WCA after Operation: Galactic Storm, and inadvertently sabotaged the replacement team Force Works with not only my own arrogance but also Kang's, who controlled me during the temporal crisis known as the Crossing. In short order, I was replaced by a teenaged version of myself who proceeded to apparently perish fighting Onslaught while actually being conveyed to adulthood on Franklin Richards' Counter-Earth before ultimately returning to Earth, once again as myself (thank heavens I covered all that in one sentence and never have to mention it again).

With a new lease on life, I revealed myself to be Iron Man, but again my rashness betrayed me, since doing so constituted admission of fraud in my previous Iron Man patents. I accepted a presidential appointment to Secretary of Defense in hope of better monitoring my technology's use but, thanks to the Scarlet Witch's unconscious influence, I lost control of my armor (again) and my faculties (again) as Clarence Ward used my armor for murder while I humiliated myself before the U.N. in an apparent drunken tirade. I resigned from office and cleared my name, only to confront more tangible effects of Wanda's madness as the Avengers were disassembled, lives lost and ruined while I could do nothing. Then the Iron Man reacted like a child: I publicly declared that I was no longer Iron Man, then put the armor back on and started all over again like nothing had happened. Same arrogance, same cover story, same contempt for anyone who wouldn't let me make up the rules. Incredible. I can only imagine how many mistakes I would've repeated if the current crisis hadn't prompted me to jump ahead and re-reveal my secret identity, setting a standard of non credibility I doubt any politician will match for the next century or so. As the Acting Chairman of your Super Hero Task Force, I am involved in turning executive policies to promote the Registration Act as well taking a more direct approach to enforcement by going out into the field and apprehending non-registered vigilantes myself. Along with my growing team of officially-sanctioned heroes, and with the support of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s Superhuman Restraint Unit (unwisely nicknamed the "Cape-Killers" by some of the unit's more overzealous members), our forces respond to credible reports of unauthorized vigilante activity 24 hours a day. Although we have not yet been able to apprehend the bulk of the vigilantes in Captain America's cell, we have been making progress against individual vigilantes and lesser cells, such as our recent arrest of the Typeface/Battlestar cell in Manhattan's warehouse district.

Miriam Sharpe was right. Iron Man did help create today's world of super heroes, where reckless vigilante action destroyed half a town. And now Tony Stark must repair that world. I just hope that between the two of us we don't wind up ending it once and for all.

MR. FANTASTIC

SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: REED RICHARDS
CODE NAME: MISTER FANTASTIC
SEX: M
EYES: BROWN
HEIGHT: 6'1"yt
WEIGHT: 180 LBS.
POWERS: ELASTIC BODY: CAN STRETCH ENORMOUS DISTANCES, TRANSFORM BODY SHAPE, SQUEEZE THROUGH MINUTE HOLES, DISGUISE SELF.
ENHANCED HUMAN
S.H.I.E.L.D. DIRECTORATE
SHRA 19 0 04 815 16 23 42

Reed Richards — the world's greatest theoretical scientific mind. Had he any grasp of marketing and commerce, he could revolutionize the world, but instead he focuses on learning solely for the love of learning, and actively resists most of my attempts to market his science.

Reed grew up amidst technology, his father, Nathaniel Richards, being one of the preeminent scientists of his own day. Nathaniel was more open to marketing (briefly partnering with my own father), and left his son with a sizeable fortune after he vanished into the timestream. Reed greatly increased the fortune for years, drawing on it to aid in advancing his own education and research as he worked through advanced degrees in myriad schools. Accepting a government spaceflight position, Reed built the most advanced ship of its time, but the government repeatedly delayed the launch for various reasons. Fearing that the program would be cancelled and his rocket would be turned to military applications, Reed stole the ship and flew it into space with three companions, the rest is history.

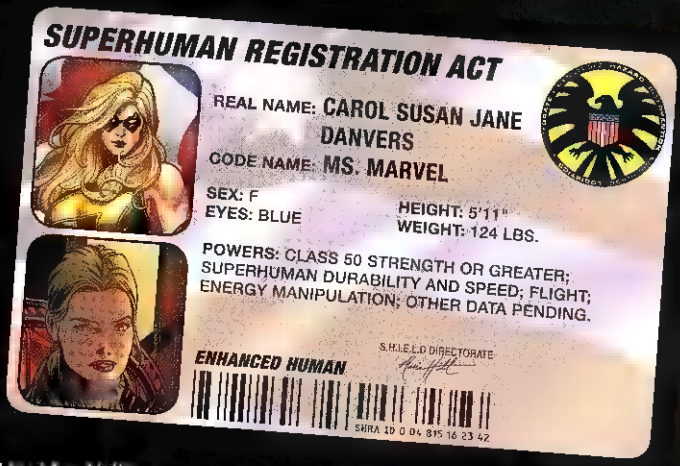
His theft and destruction of a multi-billion dollar project having made him governmental persona non grata, Reed cannibalized his own fortune for the care and support of his new team, and for research into curing what they had become. Reed quickly spent himself into insolvency, at which point he licensed enough of his work to refinance the team in a process that would be repeated many times over the following few years. Just recently he and his team hit new depths in poverty, with each member having to seek full time civilian employment just to buy food. Though a number of buyers claimed rights to Reed's work over the years, including S.H.I.E.L.D. and the U.S. government, inevitably Reed's freely given cooperation proved more valuable than coercionic duress.

Reed and his team actively campaigned (and testified before the House Subcommittee on Superhuman Activities) against the first Superhuman Registration Act of a few years past (the successor to the original Mutant Registration Act) and Reed's persuasive testimony is given much of the credit for the bill's ultimate failure. However, his "proof" that society and the government were not ready for such a bill only temporarily impeded its inevitability, and led the government to address many of the points he brought up. While we'd all like to see this legislation in its current form killed, Reed's proven to be a leader in accepting it and dealing with the inevitable fallout — we all have to live in the world we're in, not the world we'd like to live in. I think Reed fully accepted this a few months back when he led his team in a Latverian invasion to see to the destruction of Dr. Doom's weaponry after the masked tyrant's most recent "death." Doom's mystical manipulation of Reed and Sue's daughter drove Reed to take steps to ensure that Doom would be greatly weakened upon his inevitable return (which has recently occurred). Reed was willing to sacrifice his life to make sure Doom never threatened his family again; he briefly opposed the U.S. government in this but only long enough to arrange for the weaponry's destruction.

Reed's an invaluable asset in the support process for our efforts — the latest progress wouldn't have been workable without his successes with the transfection of transgenic cells. Reed's recent inspired construction of his Negative Zone "Vault" proved to be the foundation for our current Negative Zone Prison Alpha, providing a safe space to contain the law-breakers as well as secluded laboratories for working towards lifting the Fifty States Initiative.

Despite his long-term membership in the "Illuminati," and his publicly speaking of the greater good and of "uniting a divided country," I'm not 100% convinced that Reed sees the full benefits of the current Registration Act, and I'm not sure to what degree he cares. However, Reed has been unduly faced with his own mortality in recent years, and perhaps his former narrow point-of-view has changed. Not long ago, he claims to have both led his team to Heaven to retrieve his dead best friend, and rescued his son after being trapped in Hell (for the second or third time!). Reed was "killed" by his alternate future grandson Hyperstorm and left trapped in the distant past for months while his family mourned him, and not long after his return he found himself (and his team) again "killed" by Onslaught. In the past, as evidenced in both his science and marketing, his primary goal seemed to be the protection of his extended family, and if he has expanded his focus to protect them against his, and their, eventual mortality, then as long as being pro-registration serves that end, Reed should stay with the program. His wife's recent displays of sympathy towards the anti-registrants are troubling, but the chances of her swaying Reed seem slim. His mind does not work that way — Reed inevitably focuses on trying to fix his problems with technology — once he solves the root problem, the adjunct problems should solve themselves. There's a fallacy in there, but if we keep Reed busy enough, and emphasize the need to keep his family safe in the Baxter Building, Reed will likely never let himself think it through...

MS. MARVEL


SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: CAROL SUSAN JANE DANVERS
CODE NAME: MS. MARVEL
SEX: F
EYES: BLUE
HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 124 LBS.
POWERS: CLASS 50 STRENGTH OR GREATER; SUPERHUMAN DURABILITY AND SPEED; FLIGHT; ENERGY MANIPULATION; OTHER DATA PENDING.
ENHANCED HUMAN
S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTORATE

Carol Danvers began government service as a teenaged spy and, having enlisted in the U.S. Air Force right out of high school, quickly moved to pilot status and earned the rank of colonel. Captured behind enemy lines, she was freed from Moscow's Lubyanka Prison by her closest colleagues, Michael Rossi and Logan (a.k.a. Wolverine, James Howlett). Soon afterward, she transferred to NASA as Cape Canaveral's youngest security chief, in which capacity she met Mar-Vell, the rebel Kree spy better known as Captain Marvel. When scientist Walter Lawson, secretly an operative of the little-known Organization, was killed by Mar-Vell's superior Yon-Rogg, Mar-Vell took Lawson's identity but inherited an investigation by Carol, whose pre-existing suspicions about Lawson were hardly assuaged by his tendency to vanish prior to the appearance of the mysterious new super-hero into whose adventures she was inevitably drawn.

Carol faced new challenges in Mar-Vell's extraterrestrial foes, sometimes leaving her in the "damsel in distress" role she had spent her life avoiding. This culminated when Yon-Rogg abducted her as leverage against Mar-Vell, against whom Rogg used a forbidden Kree weapon, a "Psyche-Magnitron," a matter transformation device powered by the user's will. Flooded with its energy, Carol subconsciously used it to transform herself into a superhuman similar to Mar-Vell. However, the device also oriented her mind toward a Kree psyche, and this, combined with her apparent failure to expose Lawson's criminal ties or arrest Mar-Vell on trumped-up charges, led her to leave NASA. Becoming a best-selling author with a tell-all book about the space industry, she eventually relocated to New York as an editor, incidentally beginning a second career as Ms. Marvel.

At first unaware of her new super hero career herself thanks to her fractured mentality, Carol soon reconciled her Kree and human personas and joined the Avengers. Although somewhat rebellious against the government security standards binding the team, she quickly proved her power and prowess against Chthon, the Elements of Doom, and others. When her boyfriend, Dr. Michael Barnett, was murdered, I assisted in her in identifying the culprit as mutant terrorist Mystique (alias Raven Darkholme). Carol's pursuit of her enemy was disrupted when Marcus Immortus abducted her to Limbo, then returned her so she could give rapid birth to a son that, somehow, was Marcus Immortus himself reborn. She accompanied him to Limbo, and it is to the discredit and shame of myself and my fellow Avengers that we failed to recognize Marcus had influenced her decision via mind control.

Months later, Carol returned to Earth and suffered an even greater violation when, drawn into a fight with Mystique's Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, she was robbed of her powers and memories by the mutant Rogue (Anna Marie). Professor X (Charles Xavier) restored most of Carol's memories but could not revive the corresponding emotions, leaving her past life as that of a stranger. While an ally of the X-Men, she was abducted by the alien Brood, who detected signs of her previous mutation and experimented upon her, inadvertently using alien technology to again enhance her as the cosmic-powered Binary. But while her powers were greater than ever, her memories remained distant, so she cut all ties to Earth by joining the Starjammers, a team of galactic "adventurers" (e.g., pirates) whose war against injustice may have cloaked misdeeds of their own.

Eventually, for his own reasons, the cosmic Stranger fully restored Carol's memories, but again a balance was struck as her powers faded back to their original Magnitron-induced levels. She returned to both Earth and the Avengers under the new name Warbird, but her string of mental traumas led her to seek solace in a bottle, a territory I know far too well. Becoming reckless in battle and jeopardizing her teammates more than once, she resigned from the team out of fear of expulsion. After seeking treatment (which I'd like to think can be partially credited to my concern and example) she rejoined the Avengers, then, in the wake of Kang's latest invasion, joined the Department of Homeland Security as Chief of Tactical Operations and Superhuman Liaison.

More recently, Carol's again left her desk job to renew her Ms. Marvel career, feeling she still has a lot to prove, mostly to herself. She helped the new Avengers lineup (including her longtime friend Wolverine) against the Collective, an encounter that may have reignited her Binary powers, making her unanticipated repeat cycle complete. I only hope that the trend stops there, because I've felt and seen the results of my own falls from the wagon, and I don't wish that on anyone, least of all someone of such unquestionable courage. Aside from her piratical sabbatical (about which she says little), her loyalty to the law is undisputed, and her strong ties to the government, Avengers, and X-Men alike (particularly Wolverine, the team's resident mutant malcontent) make her an invaluable ally in the registration process.

MOON KNIGHT

I lay on a slab, convulsing in pain, begging for a miracle. As my first chestplate came online, it saved my life, and it has been a part of me ever since.

Marc Spector lay on a desert floor, dead to all observers. When he rose up, filled with life and vigor, he credited the god whose statue lay before him — Khonshu, Heliopolitan God of the Moon and Vengeance.

I served with Moon Knight in the Avengers when we were both on the West Coast, but since he left the team, he hasn't shown any sign of looking back. In fact, he claimed that he was never truly an Avenger at all — that he was supposedly possessed by his patron god at the time, and forced to obey its will.

If it sounds unusual, well, Marc Spector is an unusual man. Moon Knight is just one of his fabricated identities; another is millionaire Steven Grant; his third is cab driver Jake Lockley. He seldom goes by the name of Spector, believing that for all intents and purposes that Marc Spector died in the deserts of Egypt, and that his true identity has been Moon Knight ever since.

We super heroes have all had an identity crisis from time to time. I'm confident enough in who I am, but I've still had to play Iron Man and Tony Stark as two different people in the past, and I've had at least three artificial intelligences try to take my identity away from me. But for Moon Knight, I don't think the mask ever comes off. He's always playing a part, and he knows it; but this is how he likes it. If the criminals he fights knew just how far gone he is, they'd fear him even more.

Does his relationship with Khonshu upset me? Perhaps. Although I'm a man of science, when you've spent most of your adult life with friends like Thor and Hercules, atheism begins to take more faith than any theology. Marc Spector believes in Khonshu, and that belief is the only thing that keeps his sanity from deserting him. Maybe he never did meet Khonshu, and it's just another one of his multiple personalities. Although I can't find any record of Spector admitting himself for psychiatric treatment, I can assure you that that will change if we manage to recruit him.

But Moon Knight has fallen on hard times as of late. Spector was hospitalized after a brutal fight with freelance terrorist Raoul Bushman, and that seems to have temporarily put him out of commission with a pair of broken legs. If he is truly out of the fight, then he has nothing to fear from the Registration Act. Hell, I don't even know whether to classify him as a superhuman or not; he's shown superhuman strength at night in the past, but it was supposedly a mystical power, so it doesn't always register on our equipment and we don't know if he still possesses it.

We have an unverified report from the Taskmaster (who has been reluctantly cooperating with us recently) that Moon Knight has resumed vigilante activity, and there's every reason to assume that it's still Spector under the hood. One way or another, we'll have to pay him a visit. He's been a team player in the past, so hopefully he'll act rationally and understand that the wind is shifting. He's known as bit of a maverick, though, so he might resist. He needs to be aware that resistance would be a mistake, one that could cost him everything for which he's fought so hard. He has his company Speciovanti to run, personal friends like his pilot "Frenchie," his gal Marlene, as well as his servants Samuels and Nichols. He won't want to bring risk on their lives — his enemies have tried that before.

I don't expect that he would be amicable to hunting his former allies, but he doesn't have many in the super hero community. By and large, my colleagues are distrustful, uncertain, and hesitant to deal with him. Regardless, I'm sure hunting career criminals is still appealing to him. Maybe that should be our carrot. If he won't play nice, then he'd sure as hell better help. I don't relish the thought of putting him back in the intensive care unit.

WANTED
by S.H.I.E.L.D.

MARC SPECTOR

ALIASES: MOON KNIGHT, STEVEN GRANT, JAKE LOCKLEY
BIRTHPLACE: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 225 LBS.
BUILD: MEDIUM
HAIR: BROWN
EYES: DARK BROWN
SEX: M
NATIONALITY: U.S.A.
AREA OF OPS: NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

KNOWN POWERS: POSSIBLY POSSESSES SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH DURING NIGHTS OF THE FULL MOON PHASE.

KNOWN EQUIPMENT: VARIOUS EDGED AND BLUNT WEAPONS: THROWING DARTS, NUNCHUKS, TRUNCHEON, ETC.

ALL SUSPECTS SHOULD ■ CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS

NEW WARRIORS

Once upon a time, there was a wealthy young man who, following his parents' deaths, donned a suit of armor and, rebelling against every standard of corporate wisdom, put a questionably earned fortune to work by financing a team of superhuman champions to make the world a better place, only to finally see it end in a cataclysm that killed some of his friends and irreparably affected the others. And his name was Dwayne Taylor.

Getting off to a great start by zipping around on a high-tech skateboard (almost as odd a choice as zipping around in state-of-the-art armor that has roller skate wheels on its boots), Taylor (a.k.a. Night Thrasher) set out to recruit three young superheroes: Angelica Jones (Firestar), Vance Astrovik (Marvel Boy, later Justice), and Nova (Richard Rider, heir to a commission in the Xandarian Nova Corps). Taylor's blunt recruitment pitch was interrupted by the rampage of Terrax the Tamer, whom the four defeated with the help of two others who happened upon the scene, Speedball (Robbie Baldwin) and Namorita Prentiss, cousin of Namor. Taylor begrudgingly expanded his plans to include six and thus, banded together by the defeat an awesome opponent, partly by accident, the New Warriors were born. I don't remember being overly concerned by the team's debut at the time because, after all, one or another of us knew all of them, didn't we? The Thing could vouch for Vance and Namorita, the X-Men (back when they actually talked to the rest of us) for Angelica, Thor and others for Nova, even Cap for Speedball. The only stranger was Thrasher, the rich young punk who wore his armor with chips on the shoulder, and what could go wrong with a guy like that in charge?

With Thrasher's Taylor Foundation as financial backing and his girlfriend Silhouette as an occasional member, the Warriors fared well in their early battles with Star Thief and Psionex, even restoring Earth after reality had been altered almost beyond recognition by the Spiritus (and this was some time before the Avengers ended up having to do that twice a year or so). Their ranks were soon supplemented by former Avenger Rage and future Avenger Darkhawk during their effort to prevent the release of extradimensional energy from the Well of All Things; it's sometimes hard to tell just how serious things like that are, but Doctor Strange assures me they indeed saved the world from mystic chaos, and I'll take him at his word. The team faced tragedy when the Poison Memories gang learned their secret identities and attacked their families, but the Warriors endured against Garthan Saal, the Upstarts, the Soldiers of Misfortune, and more. As with any team, members came and went, with periodic additions to the lineup via Hindsight, Dagger, Bandit, Powerhouse, Turbo, Timeslip, Helix, and the Scarlet Spider. The team disbanded following their fight with Volx the Dire Wraith Queen, only for Speedball to reorganize it many months later. Although Taylor declined, Nova, Namorita, and Turbo were more receptive, and they were quickly joined by Aegis and Bolt. The second incarnation was brief, with perhaps their worst hour being a fight against me (or rather, my uncontrolled sentient armor of the time), and even after adding Ultragirl and Slapstick to the roster, they eventually parted ways again.

Meanwhile, Taylor turned his Taylor Foundation's resources to cancer research and seemingly struck gold with Zachary Smith's work, but the positive results were unfortunately truly due to Smith's mutant son, Zachary Junior, and thus had no innate value, severely wounding Taylor's resources and reputation. The elder Smith died soon afterward, and Taylor, guilt-stricken at his foundation's role in events, adopted Smith's son. Unfortunately, it seems to have been the last responsible action of his life. Evidently seeking to (A) expiate his guilt by helping others across the country, (B) recoup some of his foundation's financial losses, and (C) find solace in a reunion with his friends, Taylor reorganized the New Warriors as a

touring "reality television show," traveling small-town America in search of menaces that had slipped off everyone else's radar. And much as I hate to admit it, on paper it wasn't a 100% idiotic idea — the growing number of superhuman criminals and the correspondingly large failure rate in containing them makes a stronger super-hero presence in areas of the country other than Manhattan an inevitable need, and their sponsor, Ashley Brothers Productions, was prepared to insure everyone in every town the team visited, the kind of backing even Stark money can't always provide. With the younger Zachary (as Microbe), Taylor recruited Nova, Speedball, and Namorita, and for a while this latest Warrior set fared all right, defeating Piper Shark and Armadillo (two Raft escapees who slipped through our net) in Illinois, the Super-Apes in Kansas, and Mad Thinker androids in Minnesota, this last after the network add-on of telekinetic "bad girl" Debrii for "added conflict" on the show (Deliberate "added conflict" to a super team's life. Heaven help us.). However, after their Delaware defeat of the Corruptor (yet another Raft escapee, the only member of Crossfire's gang the Avengers missed), the show went on hiatus, again disbanding the Warriors and forcing Taylor into bankruptcy, pretty much robbing him of everything he had. Reed, myself, and a few other benevolent rich guys have managed to bounce back from that sort of thing. Taylor wouldn't.

Against all odds, Taylor apparently persuaded the MRVL Network to give a second chance to team and time slot. By then Nova had been recalled by the Xandarians, and Debrii vanished to wherever she had come from before, leaving Taylor with Microbe, Namorita, and Speedball to recoup his losses. But a few months in the Midwest left them with few victories on their belts and worse ratings than before. To Taylor, it must've seemed like everything he believed in was on the line.

So he did something really, really stupid. The way young men in armor do.

The team got word of still more Raft/Ryker's escapees — Cobalt Man (another villain prematurely declared "dead"), Coldheart, Nitro, and Speedfreak — holed up in Speedball's home state of Connecticut, mere blocks from an elementary school. I hardly need to go into detail here, as the whole world's seen the footage:

Taylor and Microbe were skeptical of their chances; this team was literally little more than half the team that had taken down Terrax years ago. They should've pulled back. They almost did. But Speedball tried to convince them that it wasn't enough they'd already saved so many lives so many times before. They needed the glory and devotion that only a nation's slack-jawed gawkers could give them. And they needed it NOW. They lingered, and they were spotted, and they were attacked. Three of the four criminals were taken down easily. Nitro fled. Namorita followed. Nitro struck back.

And that was the end of the wealthy young man in armor who'd only wanted to change the world, and of the boy he'd felt obligated to protect, and of the two friends who, years before, had signed on to help him without even being asked. Once upon a time.

We know now that Speedball survived, protected by his extradimensional powers, but not the other three. Super heroes joke about "coming back from the dead," but in almost all cases it's really a case of someone not having died in the first place. Like it or not, NightThrasher, Namorita, and Microbe died, and dead, it seems, they'll stay. And, of course, there were the hundreds of Stamford dead, too, for whom the Ashleys' policies couldn't have done a thing.

Bob's dead too, many months ago, at the hands of Weapon X's Agent Zero. The Scarlet Spider had been murdered by Norman Osborn long before. Silhouette and Helix have dropped out of sight, and the grapevine tells me that Bandit's in bad with some southern crime syndicate. Turbo and Darkhawk are on the west coast in some new group intended to discourage superhuman teens from inexperienced combat. At least those last two are on the same page as we are, if not quite the same paragraph, and they get credit for seeing a need before the world saw Stamford. Much less encouraging are Powerhouse's continuing New York adventures with his three siblings, all minors, as Power Pack; oddly, some reports place his sister Julie as a member of Turbo's group across the country, but that's a riddle for another day.

The name "New Warriors" — the name given to young people who've managed to save the world only once or twice — has become synonymous with superhuman arrogance and irresponsibility. I've seen the Acts of Vengeance backlash, anti-mutant hysteria, one hate campaign after another against my own two good names, but never anything like this. Timedrip and Debrii have already been attacked for their former membership, but with the help of She-Hulk and myself, Justice and Rage, honored Avengers alumni, led their friends to trace a particularly virulent campaign to Hindsight, who, horrified at what his name had become synonymous with, was trying to distance himself by sharing his secrets with the world wide web, "outing" his teammates before registration had a chance to do it. Most of the team briefly reunited to confront him, but since then, Slapstick's dropped off the radar, Ultragirl and Dagger have joined Captain America's "Secret Avengers," Aegis is on the run for refusing to register, and Firestar is reportedly quitting the fight rather than reveal her identity to the government. As for Nova, last of the team's founders, AFAIK he's still in space with the Corps, no doubt fighting alien threats even I'd have trouble imagining. I wish I could shake the feeling he'll still end up the luckiest Warrior left.

NITRO

It was only days ago that Nitro became this country's #1 killer of super heroes. Nitro has been in and out of custody for years. He was the man responsible for killing Mar-Vell of the Kree, popularly known as Captain Marvel, although he was hardly aware of the fact — his first clash with Mar-Vell ruptured a container of nerve gas, and the cancer Mar-Vell developed from exposure while sealing the gas ultimately took his life.

Nitro's powers were a gift to him from the Lunatic Legion, a faction of the extraterrestrial Kree who were trying to overthrow the Supreme Intelligence. The Lunatic Legion's mission was a failure (perhaps unfortunately, given what horrors the Supreme Intelligence later inflicted on his own people), and Nitro was left with neither purpose nor purpose. So it was that he became little more than a common criminal.

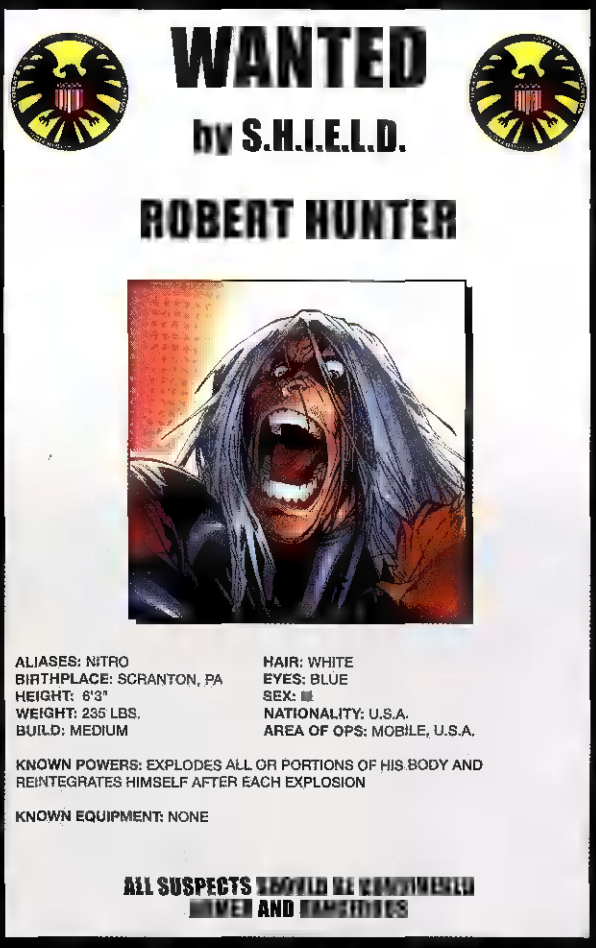
Tombstone, Thanos, Nefaria — Nitro has made numerous alliances with other villains, but they never saw him as much more than a pawn. A powerful pawn, but Nitro's lack of ambition kept him in line. Given the potential for wide scale destruction inherent in Nitro's abilities, we are at least fortunate that until Stamford, he had never inflicted such a high level of carnage. Nitro's greatest weakness is his own power — the more he explodes himself, the more fatigued he becomes, until he cannot bear enough concentration to set himself off. His powers have also had a deteriorating effect upon his mental capabilities, which is perhaps the only factor that has kept Nitro from taking full advantage of his abilities. Project: PEGASUS handily imprisoned him for a few years, and their containment tanks remain the best known means of incarcerating Nitro. He made attempts to get off-world and find his old Kree allies, but to no avail. In my first clash with Nitro, I quickly discovered the frequency pulse which would set off his powers, and sent a cybernetic broadcast from my armor that duplicated the signal, causing him to explode repeatedly until he was too groggy to fight back. Broadcasting a signal inhibitor around Nitro is sufficient to keep him from using his powers, as long as the inhibitor's strength matches his own strength level.

Nitro's most recent internment was at the Raft, and he was among the many of convicts who made it past myself and the other Avengers. Recapturing Nitro was a priority, but with so many other dangerous felons on the loose, the Avengers were swamped. I kept constant flags on Nitro and the others, and could only hope that when he did resurface, he could be brought in with a minimum of damage. He finally did resurface in Stamford, Connecticut alongside fellow super villains Cobalt Man, Coldheart, and Speedtrack, prompting the New Warriors to lead an ill-conceived preemptive strike on the fugitives . . . .and the entire world knows what happened next.

God, I wish I had killed him when I had the chance. Because of him over a hundred children are dead as well as three New Warriors. The New Warriors' leader Night Thrasher looked up to me, he wanted to be a successful hero and businessman like I am. I should have brought him into my company years ago and established a protégé relationship like I now have with Peter.

Enough recriminations. At Wolverine's insistence, he ended Nitro to Big Sur, California, where Nitro caused a second explosion that killed an entire S.H.I.E.L.D. Superhuman Restraint Unit. But before Wolverine could find out who supplied Nitro with the Mutant Growth Hormone (MGH) that amplified his powers, Namor, Prince of Atlantis, (with a group of Atlantean sleeper agents) transported Nitro to their undersea kingdom to face punishment for killing Namor's cousin, Namorita. Wolverine persuaded me to let him borrow a suit of my Hydro-Armor so he could travel to the Atlantean province of New Pangea and "negotiate" Nitro's release.

In the event that Nitro is brought in alive, our priority is to find out who supplied him with the MGH that allowed him to cause so much destruction in Stamford. Then I propose temporary incarceration until his powers can be purged, permanently. Then let the courts eat him alive...



O*N*E

The Office of National Emergency (O*N*E) was largely the brainchild of Dr. Valerie Cooper, Presidental Advisor on Mutant Affairs and Chairperson of the Commission on Superhuman Activities. Dr. Cooper is well known for her tireless efforts to improve the nation's security measures against superhuman threats, with the existing Superhuman Tactical Response Squad (S.T.A.R.S.) already doing a fine job of apprehending superhuman criminals.

However, the O*N*E differs from S.T.A.R.S. in that it is designed to not only deter but engage in combat against superhuman threats, specifically mutants. Rather than place this burden upon our superhero community's already taxed forces, Dr. Cooper believes that ordinary men equipped with the most cutting-edge technology can overcome any obstacle. I naturally concur.

Dr. Cooper's alarming proposal was to employ Sentinels in the O*N*E. She's well aware of their shortcomings, and had finally devised a solution to solve the repeated command overrides that Sentinel programs have routinely developed. The linchpin to Dr. Cooper's plan was yours truly — or rather, my company's resources. As the specialist in hi-tech exoskeletons and cybernetic interfaces, Dr. Cooper sought my expertise in retrofitting Sentinels into piloted suits of armor.

This solution is, of course, brilliant. Even allowing for the occasional pilot who might go rogue in the field, these Sentinels are at least fifty times as reliable as the models first unleashed by Bolivar Trask. But I did not take the proposal lightly. I still find myself reluctant to share my technology with others, having seen it misused time and again. But if I learned anything as Secretary of Defense, it's that if I don't provide America with the best weapons with which to defend itself, someone else will provide an inferior copy.

I also considered the legacy of Bolivar Trask: he may have been a racist, but he never intended for his Sentinels to become the disloyal murderers that they are. Trask was a good friend of my father's, and part of me would like to help refurbish his legacy. Mankind may never be rid of the Sentinels, but at least we can prove that we are the masters of their technology, instead of vice versa.

My one condition with Dr. Cooper was that I would have final say on the pilot instructor, but my recommendation was hardly needed. I don't speak to Rhodey much these days, but I still consider James Rhodes to be my best friend. He's gone through some tough times lately, but he had too much pride to ask me for help. I respect that, but I knew that the opportunity to train the O*N*E would be perfect for him. He's no scientist, but no other man (except myself) has spent as much time inside of a combat battlesuit, and he's piloted most of my Iron Man armors at one time or another at that. Given his background with the U.S. Marines, it didn't take much to convince the O*N*E that Jim was the right man for the job. I hope that he's finally found the best of both worlds — he gets to make a difference, defend his country, and not bother with that secret identity thing he hates so much.

Unfortunately, it was decided by higher authorities that Dr. Cooper would not be the Director of the O*N*E, and the position went to General Demetrius Lazer of the U.S. Armed Forces. I've dealt with Lazer in the past, and never because I wanted to. He was a demanding client, to put it one way. Lazer is also a bigot, which is unfortunate because the O*N*E are best suited for battling mutants. Dr. Cooper should be the one running the show — she's proved her objectivity toward mutants time and again.

But I am glad that Dr. Cooper is flanked by two of the best men in the service — Rhodey and Colonel Miguel Reyes. Miguel manages the Xavier Institute assignment, and hopes to eventually locate his sister, the one-time X-Man Cecilia Reyes. He's in the best possible place to achieve his goal.

So far Rhodey's pupils have done some fine field work, battling Hydra, the Savage Land Mutates, the "wild" Sentinels, and overseeing "the 198" at the Xavier Institute. Being in such close proximity to the X-Men has forced the squad into dangerous situations that could never have been foreseen, from Apocalypse to the Shi'ar Empire, and, unfortunately, most of the squad have been temporarily suspended for abandoning their units while engaged against Apocalypse. Nonetheless, production continues on new models of Sentinels as we continue to explore fashioning the best equipment for our boys in the field. Current Sentinel models are the Brawler (close-combat), Stealth, and Recon, as well as personal models such as "Crazy Train," "Megaton," "Ogre," "Shrapnel," and "War Machine" (you should've seen Rhodey's eyes light up when I showed him the plans).

The O*N*E are currently hard-pressed in pursuing the 198 and some rogue X-Men, with the X-Men's own Bishop overseeing the squad in the field. Meanwhile, General Lazer, from his office in the Pentagon, is providing us with some excellent intelligence on the 198's whereabouts. I have the utmost confidence in the O*N*E to resolve the situation — it's just one less fire for me to put out.

THE 198

M-Day — the event that upset the delicate balance between mutants and humans forever. Mutants were always a persecuted minority in just about every nation on the planet, but after M-Day, their numbers were decreased by 9/10. As you can imagine, that changed everything. What was once a public population projected by last year's census to overtake humanity within the next 10 to 20 years has now been reduced to a demographic on the verge of extinction. The U.S. government's first estimated that there were only 198 mutants left on the planet. Admittedly, we've since determined that this was a low estimate, but, nonetheless, the name has stuck. Although "the 198" originally referred to the entire surviving mutant population, the term has since been corrupted by the media and the public and is now used to refer specifically to the unaffiliated mutant refugees who fled to the Xavier Institute for Higher Learning in Westchester, New York for temporary sanctuary from the outside world.

Mutants are in a precarious position under the terms of the wave of new legislation enacted in response to the Stamford tragedy. The Superhuman Registration Act requires all who possess superhuman powers to register with the government, regardless of whether they wish to engage in super heroics or not. But S.H.I.E.L.D. and the United States Commission on Superhuman Activities (C.S.A.) have already pulled their resources to create the 198 Files, a databank containing the names and powers of all known mutants, which was transferred to the U.S. Office of National Emergency (O*N*E) pursuant to the Superhuman Information Sharing Act. So most mutants are already de facto registered, but, to address the endangered status of mutants, Congress passed the current incarnation of the Mutant Registration Act (MRA), which establishes additional restrictions for those superhumans who were born with their powers. Although most of the 198 set up encampments at the Xavier estate voluntarily in the days following M-Day, they soon became detainees by default under the MRA while their legal standing is debated by Congress and the courts. While Sentinel Squad O*N*E was dispatched to the Xavier estate (ostensibly to protect the X-Men and the newly arrived mutant refugees from those who would hurt them) General Demetrius Lazer sent orders from the Pentagon that the mutants were not to leave the Institute's grounds unsupervised. The 198 soon learned that they were not free to leave and that their movements were severely restricted. Outfitted with electronic tags and only permitted to leave the estate when accompanied by a military escort, the 198 soon learned that each tag could deliver a debilitating shock to keep them under control.

After a failed escape and a minor riot, even more restrictions were placed upon the 198's movement so that they could no longer leave the Institute. Today, various civil rights groups are actively challenging the MRA on constitutional grounds, arguing that the continued incarceration of the 198 "detainees" is a gross violation of the Bill of Rights. The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to address the constitutionality of the Mutant Registration Act in a matter of weeks. Meanwhile, the subversive mutant group X-Force (comprised of Domino and Shatterstar) infiltrated the Xavier estate and escaped with more than half of the 198. Cyclops, leader of the X-Men, ordered his team to stand down, apparently due to guilt over his complicity in the previous treatment of the 198. But not all of his X-Men listened — while Cyclops has vowed to help the 198 escapees evade capture, Bishop has decided to help O*N*E track the rogue mutants down for the good of all mutantkind. Although General Demetrius Lazer of the O*N*E vehemently objected to Bishop's appointment as field commander in his search and retrieval operation, I went over his head and received approval for Bishop's appointment from the current Secretary of Defense, who shares my belief that it will be good for the general public to see a mutant policing other mutants.

Most recently, Lazer received intelligence that pinpointed the location of the 198. holed up in an abandoned S.H.I.E.L.D. base near State Route 82 in the Nevada desert that was used for stockpiling emergency rations during the Cold War. Regardless, Bishop and his team have been deployed to retrieve the 198 members.

PUNISHER

Captain Frank Castle, sole survivor of the Firebase Valley massacre, nine times decorated by his country, a legend in the U.S. Marines and deservedly so. Some of what I've read of his multiple tours in southeast Asia disturbs me, it's true, and I don't for a moment believe that I've been shown the worst the military could show me about him. But although I have never hesitated to walk where Stark weapons have been used in defense of American interests, I am not a soldier and it is not my place to judge Castle's battlefield conduct. Some years later, his wife and children were murdered before his eyes by gangland executioners, and neither can I judge his grief. However, his actions since then — the systematic murder of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of alleged criminals, many of them U.S. citizens with no actual criminal convictions — of these I may have my say. I am under no illusion that the criminal justice system is perfect, but I find no fault with the basic tenet of "innocent until proven guilty." Clearly, Castle does not concur.

Although I have never met Castle myself, I have questioned several of my new teammates about their interactions with him, and in describing one encounter, Spider-Man (who has by far been the most emotionally affected by his encounters with the vigilante) repeated a phrase that sums up the original Avengers charter's prohibition against killing perfectly: "People who live can change." As I write this, I mentally check the full Avengers roster for people once accused or convicted of crimes: Yellowjacket, Hawkeye, Quicksilver, Scarlet Witch, Swordsman, Vision, Black Widow, Moondragon, Iron Man, Sub-Mariner, and more. I suppose during their "criminal" activities, the Punisher would have killed any or all of them if he'd had the chance and thought nothing of it. Where would the Avengers be then? Where would the world be then?

As noted, I have no shortage of testimonies on the man. As circumstances have dictated, he's fought either against or alongside Spider-Man, Wolverine, Daredevil, Cage, even Cap. All agree Castle has risked his life to save innocents and taken pains to avoid killing any cooperative super hero (although Wolverine readily offered dissent on this point), but these niceties cannot excuse his many years of cold-blooded murder. During these years Castle has been sentenced to and escaped from Ryker's Island at least four times, a surprising record for a baseline human. Needless to say, he is wanted by every federal law enforcement agency, despite personal admiration by officers who chafe under the system's restrictions and are fortunate enough to avoid being deemed "corrupt cops" by him. His actions even warranted the formation of V.I.G.I.L. (Vigilante Infraction General Interdiction and Limitation), whose mandate, to curb unauthorized vigilante "justice," somewhat echoes our current efforts, which at least lack the authorization of lethal force. Since Castle was once formally pronounced dead by a legal (although false) execution, he may well be immune to prosecution for his spree to that date, but mere months later he was, before escaping custody, indicted on nearly one thousand charges in New York alone, including terrorist threats, possession of weapons of mass destruction, and nearly a hundred confirmed homicides.

Although recently Castle has escalated his "war" on crime even further, with record-breaking body counts, he is paradoxically now rarely encountered in the field by any super hero save Daredevil. Not long after the infamous Raft breakout, both men got caught in a gang war between Hammerhead and the Jackal. That war ended with Castle bloody, beaten, and shipped to Ryker's, one of many prison facilities pulled into service to fill Ryker's pens, but soon he escaped yet again. It's almost like he inhabits two worlds, one where heroes care about him and one where they don't, and he can slip from one to the other with ease. Reports indicate he recently allowed himself to be arrested to observe Matt Murdock (a.k.a. Daredevil) in prison pending trial. However, Castle's already escaped yet again and is reportedly investigating deputized "ex-villains" offered clemency for assistance during the current crisis. Some people think Castle, hoping to get things back to "normal," will end up joining Cap's side in an effort to derail super hero registration. I don't accept that. I call it. Misguided though he is, Cap feels he's protecting people from unjust treatment; if the current crisis lowers him to working with an unrepentant mass murderer, then he's been broken in ways I can't even imagine. And who will there be to punish for that?

QUICKSILVER

In retrospect, it should've sounded like a bad idea from the start: a half-hearted mutant terrorist reunion to protect humanity? But despite owing Magneto their lives after he rescued them from certain lynching, Pietro Maximoff and his sister Wanda had never been truly devoted to their father's Brotherhood of Evil Mutants or to his feud with the X-Men; so, as Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch, they were recruited after the founding members of the Avengers (including myself) left the team, leaving only Captain America, the team's first (and still best) post-formation recruit, to hold the fort. Either not knowing or, the more likely, not caring about anti-mutant sentiment, Cap unhesitantly inducted the Maximoffs into the Avengers, along with my former reluctant opponent Hawkeye, and "Cap's Kooky Quartet" quickly won the public's hearts as the Avengers' first major lineup change. Over the years, as members returned and left anew, Pietro proved a valued (if occasionally erratic) teammate, but a wedge grew between him and Wanda when she fell in love with the Vision. Pietro ultimately left the team to marry Crystal, princess of the Inhumans, who bore him a daughter, Luna.

Ill at ease in a society where he was but one superhuman among hundreds, Pietro threw himself into training Attilan's then-limited militia, but since the Inhumans were enjoying their most peaceful era in decades, this only alienated him more. Devastated when a neglected Crystal began an affair with Wanda's neighbor Norm MacAmber, and mentally influenced by Maximus, Pietro snapped and, unable to face his own failures, projected them onto the Avengers, leading the android Vision against us before targeting Crystal's former lover, the Human Torch. Imprisoned by the FF for a time, he regained his sanity and served a stint in the Avengers' West Coast branch, then one in Val Cooper's government-sanctioned X-Factor squad.

Quicksilver subsequently took over leadership of the Knights of Wundagore, but when the group drifted apart, he took a role in Magneto's Genosha government, hoping to keep his father's ambitions in check. While I've no doubt Pietro's intentions were good, renewing his association with the world's most infamous mutant terrorist was his universal move to date. Luckily, Pietro was not in Genosha the day Cassandra "Nova" Scott's nearly eradicated its population, and he again rejoined the Avengers.

In the wake of Wanda's malevolent attack on the team, Pietro feared the rest of us would execute her to prevent future reality alterations, and he (of course) hurried to Genosha to find Wanda near suicidal and Magneto torn on how to proceed. Driven almost back into insanity (and it's hard to argue his circumstances didn't earn it this time) Pietro persuaded Wanda to alter reality into what we now call the "House of M," where Magneto and his children reigned as leaders of a mutant-dominated world and some Avengers remained heroes while others were outlaws or victims. It's troubling that, although Wanda's remade world allowed her to regain her lost children, Pietro's "Hunter" held neither Crystal nor Luna. I'm not sure how to interpret that, but since all the interpretations I can come up with are equally disturbing, I don't suppose it really matters.

Once what we're all presuming is reality was restored, Wanda removed the powers of nearly all of Earth's mutants, including Pietro, in what came to be known to the general public as M-Day. Reunited with his wife and child in the Inhumans' lunar civilization, Quicksilver became obsessed with regaining his powers and stole a sample of Terrigen Mists, the closely guarded compound used for the Inhuman mutation ritual, Terrigenesis. Arriving in post-M-Day Genosha, he shared the Mists' power with various depowered mutants, usually to negative effect. His actions led to a hostile confrontation between General Luxor of O*N*E and the Inhuman Royal Family, a troubling diplomatic development that we continue to monitor. At present, he cuts a slightly deranged messiah figure in Manhattan's District X, the former "Mutant Town," spreading power and chaos alike. Since most of the neighborhood's remaining inhabitants, whether their powers were retained or regained, are not active adventurers/violators, and Quicksilver remains in the custody of his former X-Factor teammates and their new colleagues, all of them mutants with publicly known identities, the Registration Act's effects on any of them are a low priority at present.

WANTED
by S.H.I.E.L.D.

PIETRO MAXIMOFF

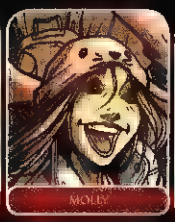
ALIASES: QUICKSILVER
BIRTHPLACE: WEST[illegible] MOUNTAIN, TRANSIA, [illegible]
HEIGHT: 6'
[illegible]: 175 LBS.
BUILD: MEDIUM
HAIR: SILVER
EYES: BLUE
SEX: M
NATIONALITY: U.S.A. (NATURALIZED)
AREA OF OPS: MUTANT TOWN, NEW YORK CITY, [illegible]

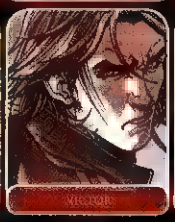
[illegible] POWERS: ALTERATION OF VIBRATIONAL [illegible] FOR TELEPORTATION; DISLOCATION; [illegible] TO MOVE OBJECTS [illegible] AND FORTH THROUGH [illegible] (FORMER) [illegible] MACH-2 OR FURTHER.

[illegible] EQUIPMENT: NONE

ALL SUSPECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS

RUNAWAYS





Comprised mostly of the youngest children of members of the Pride, a West Coast criminal organization so secret that I wasn't really even fully aware of them during my time in Los Angeles (and even then, I chalked them up as urban legends), the Runaways symbolize everything I hope to put an end to. They're untrained, sloppy, and more than just a little lucky. Quite frankly, I'm surprised it wasn't them that sparked a tragedy like what happened in Stamford first.

We're still learning about the Pride, but what we have uncovered has us more than a little concerned. A group of twelve people (all parental couples) that were bent on handing the world over to an ancient race known as the Gibborim. When their children learned of their heritage, they banded together to stop the doom, and apparently succeeded, but not before the Runaway's leader, Alex Wilder, betrayed his teammates. Wilder's traitorous actions left him dead — a teenager not even old enough to vote gone because of his loyalty to his parents. He wasn't the last, either. Just before the Registration Act went into effect, they lost another member, Gertrude Yorkes.

Based on our own records, those provided by the X-Men, and recent footage of the Runaways fighting the Young Avengers, the team appears to be comprised of the following:

Nico Minoru — The current team leader and a magic-user (I cannot stress how much I hate magic). She's shown herself to be brash, headstrong, and very distrustful of us. The rest of the team seems to look to her for guidance. She's the first one we have to get out of danger's way, the rest will follow.

Chase Stein — I'm not as familiar with Chase as I am with his parents. The Steins were well-regarded by several technology companies, mine included, for some of their inventions. Chase doesn't seem to have inherited their love of science and is actually the least threatening member of the team. When they encountered the X-Men, he was armed with nothing but a switchblade. However, he seems to follow Minoru blindly.

Old Lace — At least we can tell from our studies on the creature, Old Lace (as she was named by the late Gertrude Yorkes, who had assumed the code name Arsenic) is a genetically-engineered dinosaur closely related to the Deinonychus. After Cap first broke up the Runaways, we placed it in a holding facility of mine, but the kids broke it out. It has some sort of empathic link to its owner, originally Yorkes and now Stein. I would consider this creature the most dangerous of the crew, if not for that link. Take the boy out, and we have a confused animal left.

Molly Hayes — The youngest Runaway, not even a teenager yet, she may be the most powerful and dangerous of the lot. Her age and lack of guidance are her worst hindrances. How much longer can a girl her age be willing to live on the run? And how much longer before her immaturity causes real damage to the people around her?

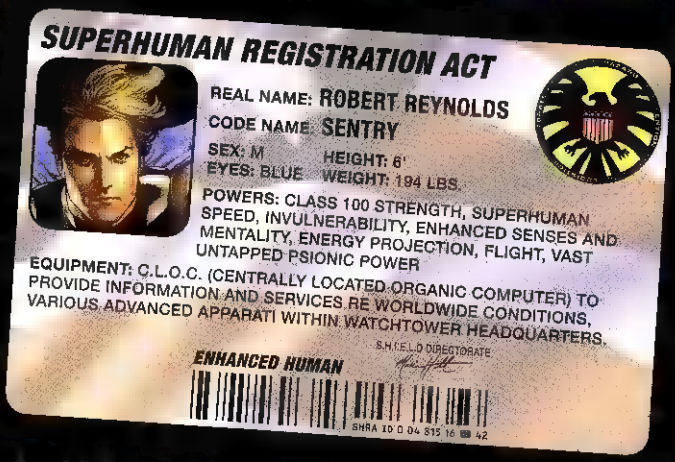
Victor Mancha — A human/robot hybrid created by Ultron for, I'm sure, devious purposes. Victor has (for now) purged himself of Ultron's programming. Still, he's a ticking time-bomb. It's absolutely imperative we find a way to [illegible] his "father's" plans never come to fruition.

Karolina Dean — Another member of this team with which the Avengers have an obscure connection, as Simon Williams (Wonder Man) once tried to get a role on the soap opera in which her parents starred. She's an alien from a race I'm not familiar with yet, perhaps S.W.O.R.D. would have more information on her planet of origin. Our records show that she left Earth for a time, but she suddenly reentered records.

Xavin — And this is who she returned with. A Skrull Prince (I am astounded by the uncanny similarities between this events and the Young Avengers, as it is apparently Dean intended [illegible] groom... or bride. I'm not sure with the androgynous nature of Skrull physiology.) Either way, he's a Super-Skrull, able to manifest the powers of the Fantastic Four — but only one power at a time.

Yes, they managed to stop the Pride, but run out of sheer luck if nothing else. The same could be said of their venture to New York to help clear the vigilante Clerk's name. These kids have been lucky so far, but that luck will run out sooner or later. With Yorkes' death, it seems that luck is already fading. I look at these kids and I shudder at what they will one day do. At least for a while, the Young Avengers wanted training. These kids balk at authority figures and refuse to deal with us. They don't trust us, and I don't think there's anything we can do to change their way of thinking. On a positive note, they don't seem to hate Cap's side either, so there is that, at least. I want to help them, to get them some place safe and out of danger's way where they can be trained if they one day choose to become super heroes. Unfortunately, I don't think we're going to be able to get through to them.

SENTRY


SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: ROBERT REYNOLDS
CODE NAME: SENTRY
SEX: M
EYES: BLUE
HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 194 LBS.
POWERS: CLASS 100 STRENGTH, SUPERHUMAN SPEED, INVULNERABILITY, ENHANCED SENSES AND MENTALITY, ENERGY PROJECTION, FLIGHT, VAST UNTAPPED PSIONIC POWER
EQUIPMENT: C.L.O.C. (CENTRALLY LOCATED ORGANIC COMPUTER) TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND SERVICES RE WORLDWIDE CONDITIONS, VARIOUS ADVANCED APPARATI WITHIN WATCHTOWER HEADQUARTERS.
S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTORATE
ENHANCED HUMAN

Over a decade ago, four amateur astronauts were irradiated by cosmic rays and became the Fantastic Four, beginning, it's thought, what is called "The Age of Heroes" that continues, for better or worse, to this day, it's a misnomer, of course. Every era has its heroes, costumed or not, superhuman or otherwise; it's always been that way and always will. Yet even if we accept such nomenclature, apparently the FF were preceded by another super hero, perhaps the most powerful and famed of us all... when we can remember him, that is.

The Sentry's story started earlier still, back in 1947, when Canada's Weapon X and remnants of the U.S.'s Operation: Rebirth pooled their resources to become Project: Sentry, an attempt to not only recreate the super-soldier serum but, in post-war hubris, magnify its effects thousands of times. Unfortunately, within a few years it had divided nearly a thousandfold itself into isolated sub-projects, with lab work farmed out to private contractors and overall administration virtually nil. Precisely where all of its resources ended up over the decades, what they might have begun, and where they ultimately led has been almost impossible to learn but, unfortunately, only too easy to imagine.

Perhaps twenty years ago, Robert Reynolds, a gifted but erratic student, stole a chemical compound from one of his science instructors as part of humanity's age-old quest for the ultimate high. That compound was the end-result of decades of work by Project: Sentry, carelessly kept in a public school, for God's sake. Rob consumed the serum and gained power compared to "exploding suns" (whatever that means in this context). Project: Sentry, appalled at what their irresponsibility had wrought, persuaded Rob to let them test his powers at their facility, but they couldn't contain him long, nor his desire to put his powers to good use, and Sentry debuted before a world that had almost forgotten superhuman samaritans. When the Fantastic Four appeared a few years later, followed by Spider-Man, Thor, and others (including myself), the Sentry became a valued friend and ally to most of us. Or so I knew. More years passed before the Void, part of Rob's personality as villainous as the Sentry is heroic, manifested and killed thousands, proving that while Stamford has proven pivotal, it was, tragically, not unprecedented. The Sentry, apparently planning to forcibly repress the Void at great personal cost, entrusted Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richards), Dr. Strange (Stephen Strange), and S.H.I.E.L.D.'s Nick Fury with information that might keep him in check; I could easily resent that I was left out of the loop, if only I had any idea whether or not that's where I asked to be. But Sentry's career ended without his input at, ironically, about the same time Captain America briefly lay down his shield to become Nomad (not a good week for super-soldiers).

One of Sentry's enemies, the mysterious General, a military genius and Francophile extraordinaire, hired the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants' Mastermind (Jason Wyngarde) to mentally force Sentry to erase all knowledge of both Sentry and Void from the memories of everyone in the world, including Mastermind, the General, and himself. More years passed before Rob regained his memories — we're still not sure why and we've had no time to find out — but most people, including myself, have not regained theirs, and virtually everything I've recorded here came from Sentry's own testimony, which may not be as reliable as we'd like. As an Avenger, he's been instrumental in several of our early missions, and when circumstances forced him to fight me on the government's behalf, I was forced to break him down mentally using reports of worldwide disasters awaiting his actions. In retrospect it was an incredibly stupid move, since such an overload could have easily triggered a psionic outburst to remake the world more openly and give us another House of M to deal with.

For various reasons, we've made a conscientious decision to keep Sentry away from the bulk of the fighting during this conflict. That's not to say that he isn't contributing to our cause in his own way, however. We are currently incarcerating the vast majority of unregistered combatants within Negative Zone Prison Alpha – and the Sentry has donated several of his Confluctor devices (originally created by the inhabitants of the Temporalon homeworld) to serve as transport gateways into the Negative Zone. The Confluctor gateways are manned almost exclusively by Sentry's near-sentient CLOC (Centrally Located Organic Computer) drones, which process incoming inmates and maintain order on the massive transport craft that shuttle inmates to Prison Alpha.

Sentry has little reason to trust the government, but perhaps even less to fear it, and for now he's supporting the Registration Act. While most of the world still thinks he's among the newest, not the oldest, of our era's super heroes, the worldwide scope of his activities has won him popularity, so his support is a major asset. But if humanity's full memories of the Sentry are ever restored, the discovery of how they were stolen may be inevitable, and faced with the knowledge that the most powerful super hero on Earth could alter their memories on a whim — or worse, by accident — I'm not sure that any government guarantees would reassure the populace. I'm not sure anything short of his total destruction would, which may be the same as saying nothing at all would. My disaster report overload trick will be useless if the greatest threat to the world is the Sentry himself. The current crisis takes precedence, but once we've pulled away all the masks, we may still be left standing in the light of a million exploding suns...

S.H.I.E.L.D.

When the formation of the Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-enforcement Division was first proposed, I was only months into my Iron Man activities and could scarcely imagine the scope my little peace-keeping notion would grow to encompass. Headed by Nick Fury, honored veteran of every war of over a half-century, it has provided support ranging from valuable intelligence and resources during the Kree-Skrull War and other crises to a ready supply of Life Model Decoys as convenient doppelgangers. Admittedly, its dedication to get me back into the weapons business proved a little grating at times — particularly when a trio of renegades attempted a hostile takeover via my planned assassination — but in such a monolithic organization, it's a testimony to Nick Fury's dedication that there's been as little corruption as there has.

Since its decimation by the renegade android Deltites and Nick's virtually single-handed reconstruction of it as the Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate (never quite understood what was wrong with reusing the first acronym), even I have trouble following S.H.I.E.L.D.'s chain of accountability at times, but at present it is a United Nations-sanctioned organization with branch offices in Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Great Britain, Greece, Germany, Italy, India, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and elsewhere, although I'm of course most familiar with its U.S. operations. Many of Nick's most valued operatives — including Sharon Carter, Valentina de Fontaine, Dum Dum Dugan, Gail Runciter, Jasper Sitwell, Derek Khanata, and James Woo — are veterans of the International Espionage version, and newcomers like Daisy Johnson (a.k.a. Quake) have equally proven themselves.

In both incarnations, S.H.I.E.L.D. has been at the forefront of government opposition to exotic terrorist threats like A.I.M., the Corporation, Hydra, R.A.I.D., the Secret Empire, U.L.T.I.M.A.T.U.M., the Zodiac, and an alphabet soupful of others, including otherworldly incursions by the likes of Baron Karza and the Dire Wraiths. While Fury's leadership has forged his fighting forces into a match for any outer-normal threat, S.H.I.E.L.D. has also outfitted at least four incarnations of Super Agent units, including the Elite Agents and Zero Company. It has mixed volunteerism and manipulation in recent deployment of the Redeemers and the Howling Commandos, but it more often than not employs non-powered operatives with superhuman-oriented equipment: the Mandroids (who have laced down the Avengers more than once), the Harriers, the Contingency, and Silvereye, among others. S.H.I.E.L.D.'s ESPer Division, although priceless for intelligence needs, has proven less than effective in field combat.

S.H.I.E.L.D. has less direct ties to other government programs of similar intent. Aside from the rarely reliable robot Sentinels (at present revamped as the piloted versions of O.N.E.), other task forces oriented to superhuman threats have included Division U, the Guardsmen, the Hulkbusters, Omega Strike, the Paranormal Law Enforcement Team (P.L.E.T.? They couldn't think of something like Supernatural Containment/Assault Team?), S.T.A.R.S., the Thought Police, and V.I.G.I.L., all of which used various advanced technologies but employed no innately powered agents. Another frequent gambit is the authorization of mutant operatives, such as Freedom Force, Val Cooper's X-Factor, and even (heaven help us) X-Static. The most recent — and repellent — such effort was Malcolm Colcord's incarnation of Weapon X, whose crimes are still being uncovered.

Certainly there has been no shortage of attempts to mutate, cybernetically enhance, or otherwise empower non-mutant government operatives: Bush Rangers, Cold Warriors, Deathweb, Glamor Boys, M Branch, Shadowforce, the list goes on, as does a long string of projects — Armageddon, Augment, Cobra, Homegrown, Livewire, Olympus, Reptila, Ultra-Tech, and others — plus indeterminate Facilities, Projects, Programs, etc. with vague names and vaguer agendas. However, almost none of these efforts have employed pre-established experienced super heroes active on a strictly volunteer basis; some have used outright extortion to force superhumans into government service, a tactic that has failed almost as many times as it has been tried, and solo operatives such as Warhawk, Scorch, Night Terror, and the recently deceased Coldheart have a disturbing tendency to go rogue. Thus at this time no government-sponsored superhuman units remain fully operational, an unacceptable situation that the current super hero registration might finally resolve.

Recent S.H.I.E.L.D. operations, such as the Latverian "Secret War," have grown increasingly erratic. Although Nick Fury has been at the forefront of some of these, others, like the recent invasion and massacre in the Savage Land led by Yelena "Black Widow" Belova, are the brainchildren of Agent Maria Hill, recently promoted to Director during one of Fury's longer and less explicable absences. Hill is, at least, an enthusiastic proponent of registration, which puts her and her squad of "Cape-Killers" (Obviously S.H.I.E.L.D.'s PR people were the first to follow Nick out the door.) on my side for now.

SHE-HULK

SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: JENNIFER WALTERS
CODE NAME: SHE-HULK
SEX: F
EYES: GREEN
HEIGHT: 6'7" (AS SHE-HULK); 5'10" (AS WALTERS)
WEIGHT: 700 LBS (AS SHE-HULK); 145 LBS (AS WALTERS)
EQUIPMENT: CLASS 100 STRENGTH; SUPERHUMAN RESISTANCE TO INJURY AND REGENERATION.
ENHANCED HUMAN
S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTORATE

Everyone knows there's a familial link between the Hulk and the She-Hulk. What's less well known is that Jennifer Walters' father is a respected Los Angeles County Sheriff, meaning that she grew up with a strong respect for the law. That's probably why she became an attorney, which indirectly led to her becoming the gamma powered heroine she is today. A client she was defending, Lou Monkton, had been framed by his rival, gangster Nick Trask; Jen started a rumor she had evidence of Trask's guilt to rattle his cage. It worked too well, and Trask arranged a drive-by assassination. Jen would have died, if her fugitive cousin hadn't been a witness, giving her an emergency blood transfusion and calling the police before he fled. Trask's men got the surprise of their life when they made another attempt on Jen in the hospital; along with his blood, Bruce had also shared his curse.

Except that for Jen, becoming a green giant wasn't such a curse. Jen doesn't seem to have the deep rooted psychological problems from which Bruce suffered, and though the transformation followed the standard gamma-pattern of releasing inhibitions, Jen soon gained control of her new abilities. There was a brief period in the early days when she was considered a public menace, with her own father leading the hunt for the She-Hulk when he wrongly believed she'd murdered his daughter; I think it must be mandatory for each superhero to be wrongly accused of murder at least once in their career. Naturally, that had to be when I first encountered her, ensuring our initial meeting was a fight rather than the candlelit dinner I prefer with beautiful women. I'd come to the West Coast looking for a missing employee, Jacob Fox, only to be informed he'd been murdered by the She-Hulk. I made the same assumptions the others had, that she was a mindless menace like the Hulk, but she soon put me straight. Ironically my first meeting with Jen's alter ego was equally fiery, as she subpoenaed Tony Stark for supplying Stark-designed weaponry to Trask. We eventually learned Trask had stolen the weapons, and that the killer "She-Hulk" was a robot I'd designed years earlier painted green and wearing a wig.

Jen gained control of her transformations, and decided she preferred being big and green, virtually abandoning her human identity. Wasp convinced her to join the Avengers during one of our periodical recruitment drives, and she soon proved her worth when Egghead's Masters of Evil attacked us, taking down their strongest members Scorpion and Tiger Shark while dressed in her undergarments. She continued to serve with distinction when the Avengers fought the Fomor, rescued the President from Plant-Man's wooden duplicates, defended Project: PEGASUS from the Lava Men, and saved Jessica Drew from Morgan le Fey. I'd left the group during one of my bouts with alcoholism when the Avengers and several other heroes were snatched to the Beyonder's Battleworld, and when they returned Jen had jumped ship to join the Fantastic Four, eventually becoming their longest serving non-founding member. Worried about her (at that time) unspecified connection to the Hulk, the President chose this point to order S.H.I.E.L.D. to pick Jen up for analysis. Unfortunately, along with Jen they also snatched a drifter infected with some kind of "Cockroach Conspiracy," leading to the destruction of a helicarrier. Jen prevented a nuclear disaster by shutting down the carrier's core, but lost the ability to become human for a while after that.

After leaving the Fantastic Four, Jen went back into law, working for New York District Attorney Blake Towers for a period. Since then she's briefly joined Fantastic Force and Heroes for Hire, had a couple of return stints with the Avengers, and is currently working for the law firm Goodman, Kurtzberg, Lieber and Holliway. She's definitely one of the good guys; she's pro-registration, seeing the need for superheroes to be held accountable for their actions, but I do have some concerns. Echoing Bruce, there's been recent signs of mental instability during her time working for Towers she was sometimes spotted talking to an unseen audience, and she told me she met Santa Claus! External factors have twice led to her rampaging like the Hulk: The first time round she destroyed Boise, Idaho; the second she hospitalized Captain Britain (Kelsey Leigh, now Lionheart) and ripped apart the Vision. While neither occasion was her fault, the possibility remains that she could become a threat like her cousin. Also, while she supports registration, it became clear during her recent "New Warriors v. Cheapo Enterprises" court case that she doesn't fully agree with how it's being implemented — she has even signed on as the defense attorney in the highly-publicized registration trial of Speedball (Robbie Baldwin). She needs to see the bigger picture. It was easy for her to register because her true identity is public record, but I wonder: does she really support the legislation, or are her sympathies with the other side?

But, despite Jennifer Walters' potential misgivings about super hero registration, She-Hulk continues to demonstrate that she is one of our largest assets. While many of us are resorting to brute force to apprehend non-registered combatants, She-Hulk has single-handedly registered dozens of super heroes through the power of persuasion alone, most recently registering Hellcat (Patsy Walker) during a high-speed chase through Manhattan.

SPEEDBALL

It has them shaking their heads on half the world's news networks: who'd have imagined that the young man who inadvertently set the stage for the disaster in Stamford, Connecticut, to say nothing of current superhuman registration concerns, got his start in Stamford's neighbor Springdale, whose city ordinances illegalized costumed vigilantes years before I was born!

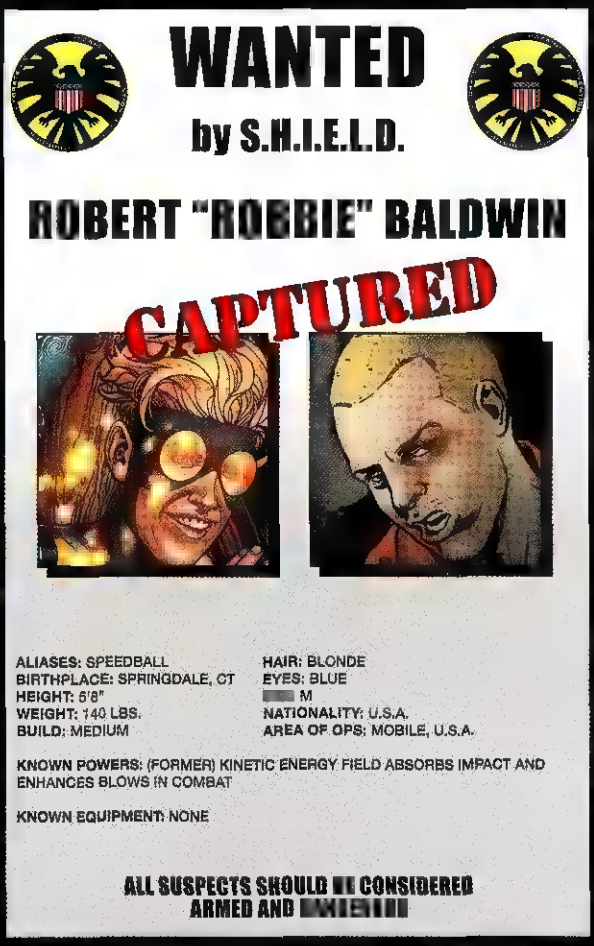
A few years ago, fortune was far kinder to Robert Baldwin than it's been of late: a high school intern working at Springdale's Hammond Research Lab, he (and a cat) were caught in a burst of extradimensional energy in the aftermath of an unsuccessful attempt to channel it. The energy permeated Robert's body, creating a kinetic energy field that enabled him to absorb any impact without harm, but with the disadvantage that sufficient force would activate the field, bubbles of pure and weightless kinetic force surrounding his person with or without intent. The energy also saturated his clothing, possibly setting up the same atomic-level transfiguration phenomenon integral to unstable molecules but shaped on the subconscious psionic level, with the result that the field's activation also transformed his clothing into, for all intent and purposes, a super-hero costume and mask.

To his credit — no one can deny that, despite his youth and recklessness, Robert Baldwin always had the best intentions — Robert used his powers to fight local crime as Speedball, the Masked Marvel. As any sociologist could predict, Springdale's anti-mask ordinance prompted a few criminals, already breaking the law anyway, to defiantly take on costumed "super-villain" personas: the Harlequin Hitman, the Sticker, the Two-Legged Rat, and so on, perhaps laughable but no less deadly than more conventional criminals who headline wanted posters nationwide. A few even had low-level super abilities via mutation or technology, minor talents that could nevertheless flummox small-town law enforcement, and Speedball readily defeated such miscreants, prompting vigorous re-evaluation of the town's policies, particularly by Robert's parents, District Attorney Justin Baldwin and nephew/activist Maddie Nayler.

After a few months of such activity, the bouncing boy wonder (or blunder) cockily applied for Avengers membership alongside Mechanaut, Gladiatrix, and Blue Shield, but none measured up to Captain America's standards. Speedball continued his hometown heroics, even defeating a displaced Absorbing Man, until, during a later visit to New York, he impulsively jumped into action alongside Firestar, Nova, and other super heroes fighting the recently revived Terrax the Tamer. The New Warriors were born from that encounter, and soon afterward Robert, perhaps given pause by the havoc menaces like Creel and Terrax could cause, interned for a time at Damage Control where he learned the basics of their extraterrestrial reconstruction work. Perhaps this gave him an exaggerated notion of how easily society could, in so many words, bounce back from superhuman-induced disaster; if so, it was the worst lesson he could have learned.

Although briefly replaced on the team by a futuristic doppelganger, Advent, Speedball remained the most enthusiastic of the New Warriors, and when the team eventually disbanded, it was he who re-gathered it months later. After the team's second parting, he remained active, if not entirely efficient, as a super-hero, working with the NYPD in taking down a Mutant Growth Hormone ring, as reported to me by Spider-Woman. Prior to joining Night Thrasher's third, "reality show" version of the team, rumor is Speedball was even showing a romantic interest in Squirrel Girl, a valiant young mutant who came to me for guidance early in her career and (no thanks to me) later found success with the Great Lakes Champions, who were first in line to obey the recent registration act.

And of course, as the world now knows, Speedball was at the epicenter of the Stamford disaster, since it was his recklessness and ratings obsession, his arrogant presumptions that damage could be controlled, that nothing could hurt him, that everyone would bounce back, that sparked the fight ending in Nitro's fatal detonation. At first believed to have perished along with his teammates, Speedball was singled out as the greatest scapegoat and shown among the deceased heroes thanks to detailed video footage of his fateful decision. When he was discovered alive in upstate New York, having survived the cataclysm via the complete exhumation of his kinetic field, he was left not only powerless but friendless. According to reports, he understandably remains in shock but refuses to negotiate to registered S.H.I.E.L.D. service, the only option allowing him freedom at this time. I can only hope his time in a hardened prison populace, vastly different from the clownish rogue's gallery he once faced, will bend him to accept his situation.



SPIDER-MAN

SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: PETER BENJAMIN PARKER
CODE NAME: SPIDER-MAN
SEX: M
EYES: HAZEL
HT: 5'10"
WT: 167 lbs.
POWERS: CLASS 15 STRENGTH, SUPERHUMAN AGILITY, REFLEXES, ENDURANCE, AND HEALING; ADHESIVE SKIN; ORGANIC WEB SECRETION; NIGHT VISION; TWIN RETRACTABLE FOREARM STINGERS.
EQUIPMENT: LIGHTWEIGHT BULLETPROOF ARMOR WITH LIQUID METAL NANOFIBERS FOR APPEARANCE ALTERATION, AUDIO/VISUAL AMPLIFICATION, GPS, EMS/POLICE SCANNERS, RETRACTABLE GLIDER, 3 MECHANICAL WALDO ARMS, AIR PURIFYING FILTRATION, MECHAGILL UNDERWATER BREATHING MEMBRANE.
S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTORATE
ENHANCED HUMAN
SHRA ID 0 04 815 16 23 42

Peter Parker is perhaps one of the most decent men I have ever met. I think the first time I heard about him, the Daily Bugle ridiculously accused him of cowardice. We've teamed together several times over the years, traveling to the future against Zarrko, the Tomorrow Man, tackling Whiplash, and the Wraith — even facing cosmic threats like Thanos and the Beyonder when he came to Earth. But only recently have I been privileged to become close friends with the man beneath the mask.

Peter's parents were government spies, double-agents who were killed under the direction of the Red Skull once they were exposed. Raised by his aunt and uncle, Peter excelled academically, specializing in science. A bite from an irradiated spider at a science exhibit triggered a body-wide metamorphosis granting him superhuman abilities. (Peter has recently been questioning if his transformation is purely explained by modern science or derives from mystical sources.) Using his superb intellect, he constructed a pair of artificial web-shooters, and later spider-tracers for covert tracking. Though he initially sought to use his new abilities for profit and self-aggrandizement, the murder of his uncle, Ben Parker, motivated him to use his powers with responsibly for the public good upon realizing he could have previously apprehended his uncle's murderer.

We first met when he was just an impulsive and brash teenager. I devised a test to see if he was worthy of Avengers membership. Peter failed to lure the Hulk back to Avengers HQ, but appeared to take the rejection nonchalantly. Over the years, I've watched him mature, while he accumulated the enmity of many criminals, mercenaries, gang lords, and megalomaniacs. His primary conflicts have been against Dr. Octopus, Electro, Kraven the Hunter, the Chameleon, the Sandman, the Vulture, the Rhino, Mysterio, the Scorpion, the Kingpin, Venom, Hobgoblin, and worst of all, Norman Osborn—the Green Goblin. This man seduced and killed Peter's first love; attempted to kill Peter's wife, Mary Jane; orchestrated an elaborate cloning fiasco involving Peter's DNA; buried Peter's beloved aunt alive; and possibly caused Mary Jane to miscarry their first child – and yet somehow Peter handles Osborn with a grace and maturity masked behind his habitual need to quip and pun mercilessly when nervous. I had hoped Spider-Man's role as an active Avenger would help the world see him for the hero he is, but the public is slow to change (and Avengers PR still needs some work). He may not be a power house, but whenever I think of the top heroes of the world, Spider-Man is always on the list; he belongs with the Avengers.

Despite countless selfless acts of heroism, Spider-Man has remained marginalized by the public and the law; because of his mask, he has been vilified by J. Jonah Jameson's smear campaign in the Daily Bugle, and falsely accused of burglary and murder. Peter was unjustly convicted of murder, committed by one of his corrupted clones, Kaine, but was later cleared of all charges. I hope we can use Peter's unmasking to help Spider-Man's abysmal public relations.

His greatest weakness is his own self-judgment, both as a brilliant scientific mind and as an A-list hero. He has yet to embrace his full potential. I've tried to whet his scientific appetite with a new high-tech (and rather expensive) costume. I thought he would be tinkering with it day and night. While I've been studying his movements and superhuman abilities through the costume's transmissions, I've logged his utilization of the suit and frankly I'm disappointed. He keeps it at arm's length. Perhaps he has trouble focusing, with his attention divided among his responsibilities and relationships.

I've come to "adopt" him as my protégé, and he in turn has promised me his loyalty, as demonstrated by his courage being the first I've convinced to go public and show the world we are shamelessly accountable for our deeds. In return, he and his family have my protection and support. Yet, as we begin these unfortunate confrontations with our former peers, I fear Peter's large heart may obstruct his equally large intelligence. His recent seriousness actually makes me a bit nervous. He was understandably disturbed when Commander Hill had S.H.I.E.L.D.'s Pet Unit probe his mind to extract the information about the House of M. Though I didn't want that information given to Hill, in retrospect, it aided us against the Collective. I'm learning we need to be forthcoming with the government. A virtuous man should have nothing to hide and should live unashamed as if everyone were watching their every move. I hope Peter has the resolve to accept that the world is changing, life demands pruning of old ways in order to grow and evolve or else the whole community will wither.

I realize I still have a long way to go before I fully earn Peter's trust. He claims to trust me, but there are still important aspects of his life and his powers that he keeps hidden. For instance, it wasn't until his Spider-Armor started providing me with muscle-response feedback that I discovered he had some form of inherent early-warning precognition that warned him of dangers before they became apparent to the ordinary senses.

THING

An invaluable asset, Ben is the everyman superhero, a friend and jovial uncle to those who know him, though the public's fear of his monstrous appearance means we can't use him in the PR campaign. Still, his mere presence should help soothe the uncertainty of those heroes inclined to resist, and should help us pull in some of those on the fence.

Grimm's a New York native, All-American high school and college quarterback. He was raised on the streets, coming from a gang background, but eventually grew up enough to learn that the police weren't just there to get in your way. Post-undergrad he enlisted in the Air Force to further his love of piloting, and came out with an advanced degree or two on Uncle Sam's dime. He flew military missions before acting as a test pilot for a number of experimental and highly risky aircraft — Ben has probably crashed more planes than I've built. His reputation as a team player and his never-say-die attitude brought him to the Pentagon's attention and they (with S.H.I.E.L.D.) used him as a pilot for a number of covert missions, many of which even I can't get the details on. However, his rough and tumble attitude rubbed many superiors the wrong way, that combined with the fact that he only really wanted to fly limited his promotions and left him on the outside when looking at spaceflight during his time at NASA. When his old college buddy Reed Richards came calling, Ben helped him steal the culmination of a multi-billion dollar space travel program, and the results of that flight are legend.

As the Thing, Ben's worked with about every hero in the book, and has worked for and with a wide variety of government agencies as well, from S.H.I.E.L.D. to NASA to Project: PEGASUS to working beside me in the Avengers in California. As Iron Man, I've worked side by side with Ben against the Blood Brothers, Prester John (speaking of crashing planes that I've built!), dinosaurs gone amok in Hollywood, and Arcade's insane Murder Island in the East China Sea (formerly known as "Monolith Island"), and our teams have worked together too many times to mention, dating from that first battle against the Hulk to the Annihilus/Blastaar/Super-Adapted Negative Zone war to Ben's and my time in the Avengers. His poker games have been one of the glues that held our community together, and the cause for that is not the games...it's Ben.

Grimm bears watching following the recent tragic death of the unfortunate innocent on Yancy Street, Johnny Storm's beating, and the Invisible Woman's growing unhappiness. He has close ties to many of the anti-government agitants, including Steve Rogers, Bill Foster and Nick Fury. He served as a mentor to former New Warrior Vance Astrovik (see Justice). Namorita Prentiss (see Namorita) served as guardian for Grimm's temporary ward Wondara (see Aquarian) and later dated the Human Torch, so Ben undoubtedly has a lot of sympathy for the Warriors' tragic demise. However, whatever misgivings or doubts Grimm may possess should be more than overshadowed by his loyalty to his oldest friend Reed Richards. His recent departure for France not withstanding — inevitably, he'll be back. Still, keeping him away from the press seems like a good idea.

I shouldn't be surprised at Ben's leaving, I suppose. He's a front-facing never-say-die kind of guy, happiest when he's got a foe he can come at straight on. His idea of sneakiness is smashing through the wall instead of through the front door. I think the public's image of him will always be that nationally televised bout against the alien Champion, with Ben beaten and bloodied and yet refusing to stay down, never once giving up because of everything that depended on him. But what do you do when you're not sure which side you should be fighting on? Ben will be back – the press is going to have a field day calling him a coward, and that won't sit well. I can't picture him turning his back on a family that recently invaded Heaven to bring him home, but on the other hand if this conflict trails on over time, I can see Ben's sympathy for the underdog driving him more and more into Rogers' camp. The worst part of all this is that Ben will never come to a preplanned public decision. It and we need to do everything we can to make sure this doesn't happen, if he chooses to defect it'll be a spur of the moment decision, when something sets him off and he finally makes up his mind. Perhaps when the "decisive" battle comes, we need to make sure that Ben's not on the actual battlefield? It, counter-intuitively, our greatest warrior's best role a non-battle one, with him reinforcing his friends and family from behind the scenes?

I keep closing my eyes and picturing that last big poker game after Ben's bar mitzvah — only a few weeks ago and yet it somehow seems like a lifetime. How can things have turned so ugly so fast?

I'll have to quietly check on whether Reed has one of his Thing-sized lobotomies left in the unlikely event that Ben never does come back.

THUNDERBOLTS

The Thunderbolts are [illegible] from the Masters of Evil, the various teams of criminals brought together to battle the Avengers, originating with Baron Heinrich Zemo. Heinrich's son Helmut designed the Thunderbolts as a team of fake heroes who would deceive the public into trusting them, then turn on all of us at the right moment. Since the failure of that plot, the team has continued to seek redemption. For the time being, Zemo is an ally of the C.S.A., and I find myself increasingly turning to his resources. Zemo has been amassing an army of super-villains with longbots to control their behavior and requires them to assist us in rounding up dissidents. I have left the super-villain community largely under Zemo's care. I think he'd like hunting Cap just a little too much.

The current lineup of the Thunderbolts includes:

Helmut, 13th Baron Zemo: He says he's through with his vendetta against Cap, and lately he's been playing himself up as a misunderstood hero. I wonder if he isn't just deluding himself again, maybe Helmut likes being the victim. He deceived the world into thinking he was a hero once before. I only hope he isn't crying wolf again.

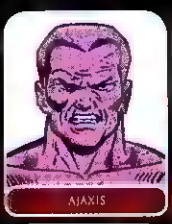
Ajaxis, a renegade Lava Man from Subterranea. For crimes committed on American soil, he wound up on the C.S.A.'s radar. I can't imagine what a non-human thinks of the *crisis one* country is currently embroiled in, but he seems willing to serve Zemo.

Aqueduct (Peter Van Zante): Originally called the Water Wizard, Van Zante has been a low-rent henchman for most of his career.

Atlas (Erik Josten): A failure many times over, Josten may yet make something of himself as a Thunderbolt, but he's fiercely loyal to Zemo, even when he has no reason to. He's been characterized as a grunt who can take orders, but not make decisions. It's a pity that he hasn't had better role models to impress himself upon.

Batroc's Brigade — Batroc the Leaper (Georges Batroc), Machete (Mariano Lopez), & Zaran the Weapons Master (Maximilian Zaran): Batroc's pride is his savate fighting skills; Zaran keeps to his throwing sais and multi-purpose spear/bo/blowgun; this Machete is the third Lopez brother, following in the footsteps of Ferdinand (killed by the Everyman) and Alfonso (killed by Hydra), and he wields the same short blades his brothers favored.

The Beetles (identities sealed by New Jersey Supreme Court). A trio of college students who [illegible] the three Beetle armors that [illegible] in C.S.A. custody. They're complete novices, but this might be an ideal opportunity for MACH-II to provide constructive mentoring. All of these Beetle armors grant flight, superhuman strength, and Tesseract suction cups in their gauntlets. The mark II suit offers the most versatility, but the mark III has the most raw power by far.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AQUEDUCT

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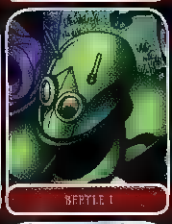
ATLAS

BATROC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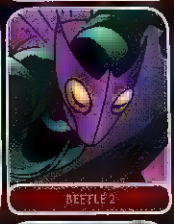
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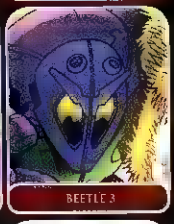
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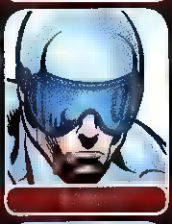
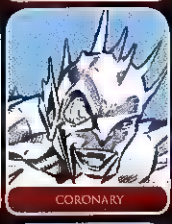


BLOODSTRIKE

BOOMERANG

BUSHMASTER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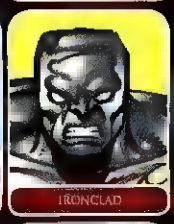
DEATH ADDER

DOCTOR OCTOPUS

EEL

FIXER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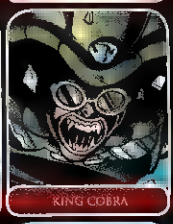
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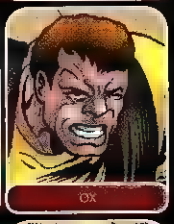
MACHETE

MACH IV

MONGOOSE

MOONSTONE

OVER-MIND


OX

SORCERESS

PRETTY PERSUASIONS

PRIMUS

QUICKSAND

Blackjack & Whiplash (real identities unknown): A pair of S&M enthusiasts patterned after my deceased enemy Marc Scarlatti, who used the aliases of Blackjack and Whiplash before them. Their whips are based on his, enabling them to generate electrical current on ensnared targets. These two make Pretty Persuasions look wholesome.

Blizzard (Donald Gill): I noticed his potential to reform years ago, but he isn't quite assertive enough to make it yet. All the same, he's learning to master the full range of his suit's freon-generators. He might make good yet.

Boomerang (Fred Myers): He doesn't have much going for him past his trick boomerangs. He was ready put out of business recently when some rival criminals blasted off his right arm and set his left arm on fire, but emergency surgery saved both arms, and the Fixer has set him up with braces to compensate.

Doctor Octopus (Otto Octavius): One of the greatest foes of Spider-Man, Dr. Octopus can be guaranteed to chafe under Zemo's leadership, being used to leading his own teams. If he helps distract Zemo from making any ulterior motives, he might be worth his weight in gold.

Eel (Edward Lavell): Since inheriting the slippery, electricity-generating suit from the first Eel, Leopold Stryke, the Eel has never made a big name for himself.

The Enforcers — Ox (Ronald Bloch) & Sylvester "Snake" Marston: These two Enforcers offer unusual (but not superhuman) talents; Ox has his muscles, and Marston is a gifted contortionist; they are easily the least powerful Thunderbolts.

Fixer (Paul Norbert Ebersol): He's Zemo's greatest asset, in that he's a genius to rival even yours truly, but has no real ambition beyond engineering. Fixer is the backbone of the Thunderbolts, but he's also the one most likely to walk out when things get tough. He'll never make good, but with the right incentive, he's a powerful ally.

The Folding Circle — Bloodstrike (Eric Conroy) & Smiling Tiger (Conrad Mack): Two of the teens whose powers are drawn from the mystical Well of All Things. They were hiding out in Madripoor lately, but it seems there's nowhere too far from Zemo's reach.

Joystick (Jamie Olivia Yanizeski): An adrenaline junkie, Joystick seems unconcerned with any kind of higher ideals, and only lives for challenges she can test herself against. She's like an athletic, female version of the Fixer. I'll have to scrub that mental image.

Killer Shrike (Simon Maddicks): Recently recovered from a near fatal electrocution at the hands of his own tech supplier, the Tinkerer, Killer Shrike is a simple-minded mook.

MACH-4 (Abner Jenkins): The original Beetle. Jenkins seems to be the most genuine about his desire to reform. He's also a natural leader, and I would sleep a lot better at night if he were running the show instead of Zemo. Jenkins has come a long way these past years, but it wouldn't take much for him to relapse.

Mongoose: "Evolved" from an ordinary mongoose by the High Evolutionary, the Mongoose is one of the less noble New Men. He possesses enhanced abilities, but is most noted for his superhuman speed.
Moonstone (Karla Sofen): Dr. Sofen is practically comatose, but still able to follow Zemo's guidance through the moonstones. When the real Dr. Sofen returns, she may tip the balance in Zemo's new empire.

Over-Mind (Group of Eyeing): One of the few known extraterrestrial Eternals, Over-Mind's vast powers of telepathy made him a useful pawn of the Purple Man in his attempt to control the population of New York. I don't know how Zemo keeps him on a leash, but at least he's been over world conquering for a few years now.

Porcupine (real identity unknown): Before his death, Alexander Goodey made a deal with the Secret Empire to mass-produce his Porcupine bandoliers for their agents. Apparently, one of the suits made its way into the black market, where it wound up with this guy.

Primus: An artificial man made by Arnim Zola. Primus developed sentience in the lab, and became partners with the Mad Thinker. Primus yearns to be treated like a human being. I truly wish that he kept better company.

Princess — Asylum (Henrique Manuel Galiano), Coronary (James Sharp), Pretty Persuasion (Heidi P. Franklin): These young people have made attempts at reforming before, and see themselves as vigilantes. Asylum has dark force controlling powers far beyond those of any other known wielder, but has suffered from fetal alcohol syndrome all his life. Coronary can control the bodily functions of others; Pretty Persuasion is an exotic dancer who can transform her erotic desires into psychic weapons, such as her whip.

Quicksand (real identity unknown): A scientist transformed into a being not unlike the Sandman. Her motivation for crime has usually been to fund experiments that would cure her condition.

Radioactive Man (Chen Lo): A repeat offender going all the way back to Heinrich Zemo's Masters of Evil. His variable mental state has been blamed on his radioactive powers. He can be trusted while he's mentally stable, but if he does lose control, we might not find out until it's too late.

Red Ronin: Originally developed by my company for S.H.I.E.L.D. to meet their Godzilla problem head-on, the Red Ronin armor has been scrapped and rebuilt before. This model is based on innovations made by Stark-Fujikawa. Unlike the earliest models, it does not require a pilot on board and can be remote controlled. At over 100 feet with a powerful arsenal of laser weaponry, Red Ronin outclasses even the Sentinels. If I knew the Fixer, he'd be all over it.

The Serpent Society — King Cobra (Klaus Voorhees), Death-Adder (real identity unknown), Bushmaster (Quincy McIver), & Rattler (Gustave Krueger): Four of the infamous mercenaries have signed on with the Thunderbolts, among them a new incarnation of the long-dead Death-Adder. After years of taking jobs for cash, these four will likely become restless without promise of reward.

Skyde (Jerome Beecher): He was recently killed and raised by the Hand as one of their undead agents in an assault on the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier, but S.H.I.E.L.D. has (more or less) returned him to normal. He has a second chance on life, but somehow I doubt he's planning to turn over a new leaf.

Smuggler (Conrad Josten): Atlas' brother, his suit grants him access into the darkforce dimension. Conrad may be more naïve than his brother, but he's also more determined. Atlas seems to be the only thing keeping him with the Thunderbolts.

Songbird (Melissa Gold): Currently skating leadership duties of the team with Zemo, Songbird has come a long way. Hawkeye was hopeful that she would join the Avengers. She's a capable leader, but she doesn't seem to inspire the Thunderbolts as naturally as Zemo does.

Swordsman (Andreas von Strucker): Andreas once generated energy blasts by joining hands with his sister Andrea; with her dead, he has bound his sword's hilt with her skin to retain his abilities. Andreas may want to redeem himself and embrace his new identity, but he's played so many parts that I wonder if he knows who he is anymore.

Tatterdemalion (Arnold Puffenroth): A one-time dancer fallen into vagrancy, Tatterdemalion wears gloves that decay matter, and a scarf that can slash like a whip.

Texas Twister (Drew Daniels): An unfortunate case; he's been one of the staunchest heroes of the southwest with his superhuman cyclone powers. Unfortunately an overindulgence in alcohol, and seven decimated buildings later, he wound up facing a lengthy jail term, with membership in the Thunderbolts the only way to keep his name clean. I hope that Daniels keeps his head while serving the Thunderbolts, but they have a history of converting outsiders to their way of thinking.

The U-Foes — Ironclad (Michael Steel), Vapor (Ann Darnell), Vector (Simon Utgeht), X-Ray (James Darnell): A foursome who set out to replicate the flight of the Fantastic Four, and gained their own set of radical superhuman abilities.

Unicorn (real identity unknown): He takes after the original Unicorn, Miles Masaryk, but his power-horn is organic, a literal third eye that sprouted from his forehead. The eye can channel energy blasts comparable to what Masaryk's artificial horn could achieve. His mental state is subject to serious fluctuations, but Zemo seems to have him under his thumb.

Vermin (Edward Whelan): Transformed into a cannibalistic man-rodent by Zemo and Primus, I'm surprised Vermin has chosen to ally himself with them again.

Whirlwind (David Cannon): I heard he suffered from a nasty spinal cord injury that was supposed to be fatal, but it looks like he's bounced back. I suspect tampering from the Fixer.

WOLVERINE

James Howlett, a.k.a. Logan, a.k.a. Wolverine, has noted that governments have both paid and licensed him to kill, and over a half century of admittedly sketchy data confirms this. A Canadian citizen born almost a century ago, Wolverine (as this report shall refer to him, since tying his various identities to select phases of his career is a tenuous process at best) was a decorated combat soldier in both World War I and World War II; during the latter conflict, he was equally active both as a freelance adventurer and an espionage agent on behalf of various interests. Post-war, he was a well-paid and well-feared mercenary, little is known of his commissions and clientele of that time, but it is to say the least doubtful that his employment parameters rose to conventional standards or values. However, even he grew weary of violence-for-hire after a few years, and in Japan, he sought to overcome his long-fed bloodlust through study and meditation, but despite his sincerest efforts, inner peace eluded him. His subsequent activities are again of dubious verification prior to his 1960s service in the multinational intelligence task force called Team X. This unit was a sub-division of the infamous Weapon X Program, itself spawned from the Weapon Plus Programs dating back to World War II. Wolverine seems to have known little and cared less about Team X's origins in those days; it would be several years more before they assumed far greater import in his mind.

After leaving Team X, Wolverine again vanishes from most radars, although conflicting accounts have placed him in the Vietnam War as a U.S. soldier, a Soviet turncoat, and more. Eventually he returned to his homeland as an agent of Canada's Department K, a secret espionage unit whose connections to Weapon X seem confirmed but hopelessly non-specific. Little data can be found on this tenure, which ended following a mission pitting him and young U.S. espionage agent Carol Danvers against Wolverine's lifelong nemesis Sabretooth (Danvers, now Ms. Marvel and a close friend to Wolverine, has declined to discuss or even verify this exploit.). Wolverine spiraled into self-destructive behavior until Department K terminated his service, and immediately afterward he was abducted by Weapon X scientists under the umbrella of multiple government interests. X's inhumane experiments turned him into a murderous pawn, robbing him of many memories but giving him in return an adamantium-laced skeleton and claws. Following his escape, Wolverine's spirit eventually proved equally unbreakable, and he returned to action as an operative of K's co-agency, Department H, which eventually appointed him to Canada's first modern government-authorized super-team, Alpha Flight.

For reasons he rarely discusses, Wolverine left Department H prior to Alpha Flight's public debut to join Professor Charles Xavier's X-Men and, by extension, the larger super-hero community of New York. His hard-earned bitterness and cynicism set him apart from his new peers, but he eventually embraced the X-Men's mission to protect and better the world, becoming both a strong supporter of Xavier and his harshest critic, although he and his peers, sometimes unfairly branded outlaws or terrorists by overzealous interpretations of mutant policy, continued the X-Men's tradition of general cooperation with the Avengers and the Fantastic Four. Wolverine also has few strong ties outside the mutant circle. Unlike most X-Men, he also regularly embarked on lone missions, occasionally in the service of a long-time friend, Nick Fury of S.H.I.E.L.D. Despite his commitment to the X-Men's standards, Wolverine shows less regard for human life when on his own, and the body counts accompanying some of his adventures cannot be easily justified.

In recent months Wolverine reached both his lowest and highest status in the nation's eyes. When brainwashed by Hydra and the Hand, he savagely fought super-hero colleagues and U.S. forces alike, but once S.H.I.E.L.D. broke his programming, he proved equally dedicated in its service. Soon afterward, his investigations in the Savage Land led to an encounter with my recently re-organized Avengers team, and despite Captain America's reservations, I offered Wolverine membership. Although I was no less concerned by the man's history and tendencies, I believed, as I do now, that his experience and perspective are essential to the team's ability to function in the current global climate. Unfortunately, my trust in him has already been tested since; following the "House of M" experience, Wolverine regained his stolen memories and set out to, among other things, confront some among the many who have wronged him and the many more wronged by him.

While Wolverine maintains abundant skepticism about super hero registration (not surprising considering how he and his people have been mistreated by various nations and administrations), he has not openly spoken against it to date. However, he has no patience for larger priorities and has gone on a self-sanctioned mission in search of Nitro, the man directly responsible for the Stamford deaths. Although Nitro's capture is of course a paramount interest, I fear Wolverine's willingness to disregard both my authority and that of his friends in the X-Men can only be a liability in the larger crisis.

X-FACTOR INVESTIGATIONS

The X-Factor name was originally adopted by Charles Xavier's first student group when they set up a fake mutant hunting agency, tricking bigots into calling them to young mutants in danger of attack. After they returned to the X-Men Valerie Cooper appropriated the name for her new government-sponsored team, several of whom (Jamie Madrox, Guido Carosella and Rahne Sinclair) are now involved with this new incarnation. Based out of what was, until recently, New York's Mutant Town, X-Factor Investigations is nominally a detective agency. In the wake of Decimation, they've also become unofficial protectors of the area. Though the group were convinced to register by S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Madrox (one of Jamie's duplicates), they've come out in vocal opposition to Registration, even stating they would aid fugitives trying to avoid capture, an almost criminal position to take.

In order of concern:
Madrox, a.k.a. the Multiple Man, can generate instant duplicates of himself when struck. He's been seen to make up to 30 at a time, but his real upper limit is undetermined. Possessing his powers from infancy, he was raised in isolation, only venturing into the world in his early 20s, eventually ending up at Scotland's Muir Island Mutant Research Facility. While there one of his duplicates was possessed and killed by the body thief Proteus. I'm told this was incredibly traumatic, and subsequently another duplicates went rogue, desiring a separate existence and falling in with the villainous Nasty Boys. The main Madrox reabsorbed the renegade shortly after being recruited into the Val's X-Factor, not long before another part of him died from the Legacy Virus. After a brief stint training as a spy, and with the paramilitary X-Corps (a worrying association), Madrox founded his detective agency which has evolved into this new X-Factor. He's also sent out what he's termed "explorer" bodies, seeking to gain multiple life experiences as fast as possible to make up for his years of seclusion. Whether a result of his duplicates' deaths, or of long-term duplicate separation, or simply a natural evolution of his abilities, his duplicates now show signs of mental instability. Unlike his counterparts, the aforementioned S.H.I.E.L.D. agent is pro-Registration, another seemingly pushed a jumper off a roof.

Raised by a religious zealot, Scot Rahne Sinclair narrowly avoided being murdered by a mob when her mutant werewolf powers emerged. Saved and adopted by geneticist Moira MacTaggert, Rahne joined Xavier's New Mutants as Wolfsbane. After operating with them for some time, she was brainwashed by the then anti-mutant Genoshan regime. Though freed, lingering after effects remained when Val subsequently recruited her; Rahne's human form was conditioned to be docile, while her lupine one lost control on several occasions. Seemingly cured by spiritual healer Haven, Rahne joined Britain's Excalibur to be near MacTaggert, who had contracted the deadly Legacy Virus. MacTaggert was subsequently murdered and Rahne depowered by Mystique, but she recently regained her powers while working as a teacher at Xavier's school. After a scandal involving a liaison with a student, she left to join X-Factor. I remain unconvinced about her mental health following her Genoshan ordeal.

Theresa Rourke Cassidy is the daughter of recently deceased former Interpol agent and X-Man Banshee, inheriting his sonic powers. With her father unaware of her existence until recently, she was raised by his criminal cousin "Black Tom" Cassidy, before learning of his villainous nature. Though nominally on the side of the angels, she's been part of Cable's X-Force, close friends with Deadpool, a recovering alcoholic and is X-Factor's most vocal critic of Registration — each of which are causes for concern.

From a family of gun runners, Puerto Rican mutant Julio Esteban Richter, a.k.a. Rictor, was one of the original X-Factor's charges, before going on to serve in Canada's Weapon PRIME, Cable's X-Force and X-Corporation. Decimation stripped him of his tectonic powers, with a criminal background and an association with Cable, how far might he go to regain the ability to cause earthquakes?

Guido Carosella, a.k.a. Strong Guy, absorbs kinetic energy which pumps up his body and grants superhuman strength. Formerly pop star Lila Cheney's bodyguard, he developed a strong friendship with Madrox and Sinclair after joining Val's X-Factor. After nearly dying from a heart condition (something I can empathize with), he became part of Masado Kogai's ghidorah-cloned mutant Arena, before joining Madrox in Mutant Town. In spite of the Arena episode, he's one of the less worrying members of the group.

Monégesque Monet St. Croix, a.k.a. M, is another of Xavier's former charges, once part of his "Generation X" student class. Possessing superhuman strength, invulnerability, flight and telepathy, she is probably the most powerful of Madrox's X-Factor, but also the most stable. She seems the least bothered by Registration, and appears to be going along with the majority rather than truly agreeing with their concerns.

As yet, and pending confirmation that a group of Madroxes (Madroi?) assisted a fugitive evade capture by Cape-Killer units, X-Factor Investigations remain just on the right side of the law. I fear however that this will soon change.

X-MEN

Mutants in general, and the X-Men in particular, have had a long and complicated relationship with the United States government. For the X-Men, things started out on a positive note. Approximately 10 years ago, amid increasing anti-mutant sentiment across America, Professor Charles Xavier worked with F.B.I. Agent Fred Duncan to recruit young mutants for his Institute for Higher Learning in Westchester, New York, which he created as a safe haven for those born with the potential for superhuman powers in their genes. Among his initial recruits were Cyclops, Iceman, Beast, Angel, and Jean Grey. These five students were trained to use their inherent powers for the betterment of mankind during a time when mankind hated and feared them. The team made their public debut when the mutant terrorist Magneto (alias Erik Lehnsherr) seized Florida's Cape Citadel missile base. Putting their extensive training to test, the fledgling X-Men, against all odds, defeated Magneto and were viewed as heroes in the eyes of the U.S. military.

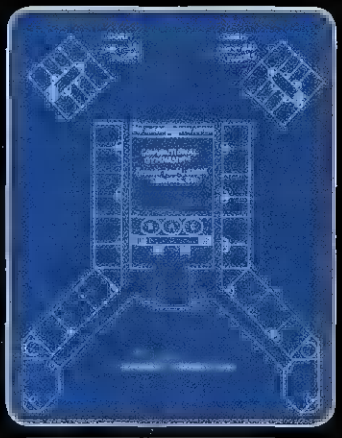
But this good relationship with the government was not to last. For all of the good work the X-Men did, the reputation of mutants was constantly tarnished by mutant criminals and terrorists who used their awesome powers to endanger and harm "normal" humans. As a result, the public's opinion of all mutants plummeted to new depths — most didn't bother to make distinctions between "good mutants" and "evil mutants." And when public opinion goes, politicians follow. Soon, the government had commissioned the construction of a fleet of Sentinels, giant robots specifically designed to hunt mutants in the name of protecting humans against the threat of a mutant-dominated society. When the X-Men attacked the New York chapter of the Hellfire Club (which the public believed was a normal gentlemen's club unaware that it had been taken over by an inner circle with aspirations of mutant domination), it was the final straw. Senator Robert Kelly of Massachusetts, who was elected on an anti-mutant platform, immediately set out to implement several programs to control mutant activity, such as Project: Wideawake, a covert operation tasked with creating a new series of Sentinel robots. When the shape-shifting mutant terrorist Mystique (alias Raven Darkholme) and her Brotherhood of Evil Mutants attempted to assassinate Kelly, the X-Men saved his life, but this only strengthened Kelly's anti-mutant resolve. Kelly then introduced the Mutant Affairs Control Act (which many view as a precursor to the current Superhuman Registration Act) to the Senate, which would have required mutants to disclose their identities and abilities to the government, but the Act was narrowly rejected as unconstitutional. And Kelly wasn't even the worst of the anti-mutant crowd — even more fervent activists, such as Friends of

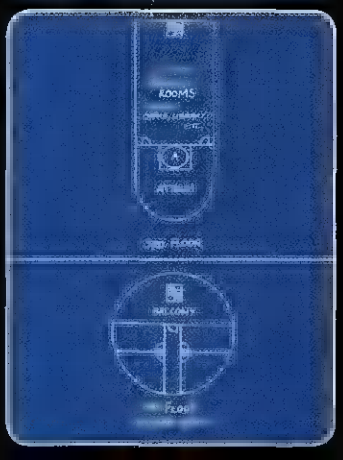
Humanity lobbyist Graydon Creed (ironically, the son of mutant criminals Mystique and Victor "Sabretooth" Creed), made Senator Kelly look like a bleeding heart liberal.

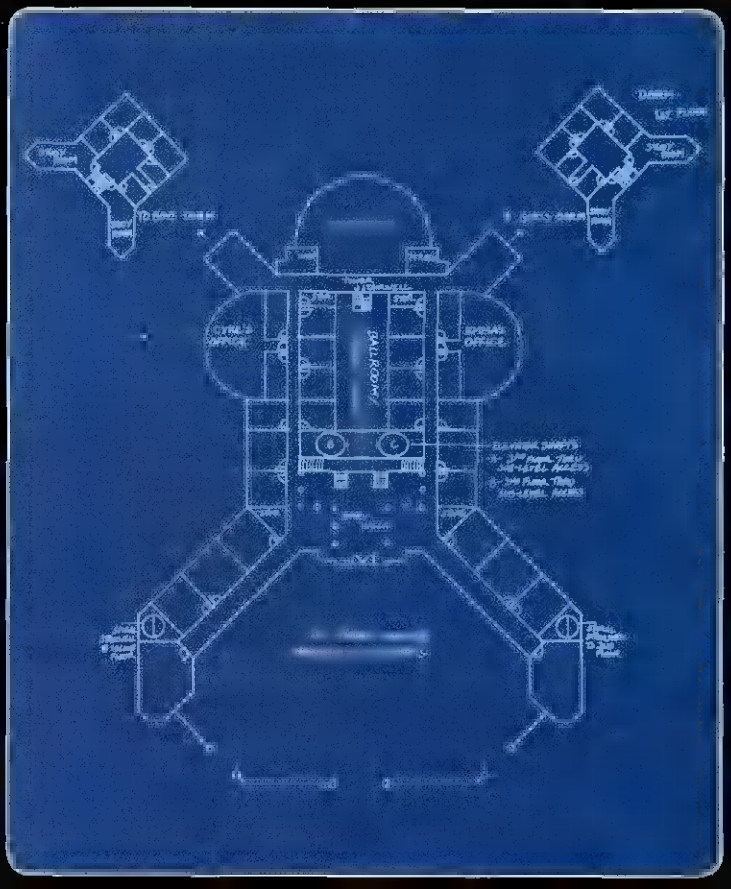
Nonetheless, the X-Men remained dedicated to Xavier's dream of a peaceful coexistence between humans and mutants and persevered in the face of adversity, adding many new members to their roster and even branching into multiple teams over the years. Even after learning of the possibility that their future was destined to consist of mutant concentration camps and armies of Sentinels patrolling the streets, they didn't give up hope. Bastion, a human/Sentinel hybrid who became a U.S. government operative, began assembling an international, government-sponsored anti-mutant taskforce dubbed "Operation: Zero Tolerance." As the general public's fear of mutants climaxed to near hysterical levels, Bastion joined forces with Graydon Creed, whose swelling popularity prompted him to nominate himself for U.S. President on an anti-mutant platform. But on the eve of his election, Creed was assassinated when his own mother, Mystique, vaporized him with a plasma beam. Meanwhile, Senator Kelly, who slowly found himself agreeing with many of Xavier's policies, discovered that Bastion was converting unwilling U.S. citizens into cybernetic Prime Sentinels via nanotechnology, and convinced the U.S. President to mobilize S.H.I.E.L.D. to shut down Operation: Zero Tolerance. Kelly finally reversed his stance and spoke in favor of a peaceful coexistence between humans and mutants after Pyro (St. John Allerdyce), a former mutant terrorist and Australian national, sacrificed his own life to prevent Kelly's assassination at the hands of Mystique; but, as we all know, Kelly was eventually assassinated by anti-mutant activist Alan Lewis, who perceived Kelly as a traitor to humanity.

Today's world is a very different place for the X-Men. At one point, the booming mutant population was expected to overtake humanity finally inherit the Earth within decades. But now, after the events of M-Day, most of the world's mutant population find themselves without powers. This has hit the X-Men particularly hard, as many of their own members (including Xavier, their founder) were depowered as the result of M-Day. With only a few hundred mutants estimated to have survived M-Day with their powers intact, the Office of National Emergency dispatched a team of Sentinels (retrofitted into piloted suits of armor) to oversee the remnants of the mutant population, many of whom sought sanctuary on the grounds of the Westchester Institute for Higher Learning.

Shortly after the current Registration Act went into effect, I met with Emma Frost, the current Headmistress of the Institute and a woman with whom I've dealt with in the past, in an attempt to convince the X-Men to assist in the apprehension of the unregistered super heroes. She informed me that doing so would violate everything in which the X-Men believed, but assured me that the X-Men would not join forces with the rogue Captain America so long as they were left alone. Fortunately, not all of the X-Men are so closed-minded — Bishop, an X-Man originating from an alternate future timeline, realizes that having mutants policing mutants demonstrates to the general populace that mutants are not a menace to society and has offered his services. Hopefully the remainder of the X-Men will follow Bishop's lead.







YELLOWJACKET

SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT
REAL NAME: HENRY "HANK" PYM
CODE NAME: YELLOWJACKET
SEX: ■
EYES: BLUE
HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 185 LBS.
ABILITIES: ABLE TO INCREASE SIZE TO 100 FEET; STRENGTH PROPORTIONATE TO SIZE (CLASS 50 AT 100 FEET).
EQUIPMENT: VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC INVENTIONS.
S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTORATE
ENHANCED HUMAN
SHRA ID 0 04 815 16 23 42

With the ability to reduce himself to approximately one-half inch in height or grow to approximately 100 feet tall by means of his subatomic Pym Particles, Hank Pym has always been a man longing to be part of something larger than himself. Born in Elmsford, New York, Pym eventually earned his doctorate in biochemistry and married Hungarian national Maria Trovaya. The Pyms moved to Hungary, but Maria, a political dissident, was murdered by the Hungarian secret police. A devastated Hank returned to the United States and dedicated his life to battling injustice and inhumanity, eventually discovering the Pym Particles that are the source of his superhuman powers.

Although it was I who spearheaded the creation of and bankrolled the Avengers, it was Hank who first suggested that the random grouping of heroes who first assembled to battle the Asgardian god Loki stay together as an official organization. Again, I attribute this to the feelings of inadequacy as an individual that have plagued Hank nearly his entire adult life. When the original Avengers were invited to my mansion to sign the team's official charter, Hank was excited that the team was going to be officially sanctioned as a peace-keeping force by the National Security Council, but I could tell from his body language that he felt insignificant when looking across the table at legendary powerhouses such as Thor and the Hulk.

Hank compensated for his self-worth issues by spending hours in the lab, constantly trying to carry his weight through scientific contributions to the team. His research expanded into other fields as well, such as robotics and artificial intelligence. But he continually dismissed himself as an inadequate scientist and super hero, constantly holding himself to impossibly high standards. As Hank dealt with bouts of tension and depression due to his belief that he would never make another discovery that equaled the scientific importance of Pym Particles, he would take frequent leaves of absence from the Avengers to pursue his preferred career as a research scientist. But Hank's life at home with his second wife, fellow Avenger Wasp (Janet Van Dyne), was also troubled, as Hank felt belittled by the fact that Janet, a multi-millionaire fashion designer, was the main source of their income. This led to verbal abuse that slowly alienated Hank from the rest of us. Hank also faced an Avengers court martial initiated by Captain America as a result of acting recklessly in a fight against the Elfqueen. To beat the court martial, Hank programmed the robot Salvation-1 to attack the Avengers (planning to use his knowledge of the robot's weakness to rescue the Avengers and again gain their good graces), but when Hank's plan went awry, it was Janet who saved the Avengers from Hank's creation. Suffering from one of many nervous breakdowns, Hank struck Janet, prompting his immediate expulsion from the Avengers and ending his marriage.

Now virtually penniless, Hank was blackmailed by the super villain Egghead into stealing adamantium from the government. He was apprehended and imprisoned on charges of treason, although later acquitted of those charges when several super villains testified as to Egghead's manipulation of Hank at trial. During this time, I never gave up on Hank and I provided him with the best legal team money could buy. Since then, Hank has worked hard to earn back our trust, both as a member of the Avengers civilian support staff and as a costumed super hero. For the most part, he's succeeded in doing that. In fact, my confidence in Hank is so great that Reed Richards and I have invited him to join our top-secret think tank where we brainstorm new inventions and scientific breakthroughs, such as several new advances in cloning technology which we've recently stumbled across.

Today, Hank is recognized as one of the world's foremost biochemists and also possesses considerable expertise in subatomic physics and robotics. As Yellowjacket, Hank is also a force to be reckoned with on the battlefield. He is a very valuable ally in our cause, but the trick is to keep his self-esteem and sense of self-worth high. Although he thinks very highly of Captain America, I think it was his longing to be part of something larger than himself that prompted him to register with S.H.I.E.L.D. and help us usher in a new era of superhuman/government relations.

ADDENDUM: Hank's been working the last few months on a new version of the Ant-Man armor for S.H.I.E.L.D. to use in clandestine operations behind enemy lines. As well as the standard shrinking ability and insect communication helmet, Hank also equipped this version with a jetpack and robotic arms (similar to the ones I recently gave Peter) with magnetic grapples, allowing the wearer to adhere to surfaces. The jet flame exiting the arm tips can also be focused for offensive use. Hank was assaulted and the armor stolen around the same time the Hydra-brainwashed Wolverine was brought into S.H.I.E.L.D. custody, so they were too preoccupied to immediately launch a full-investigation into the theft; then Hydra's mass assassin assault destroyed the Blackhawk Helicarrier, which eliminated many clues as to the thief's identity. Since then this new Ant-Man has been spotted a few times stopping muggings, presumably figuring out how the armor works.

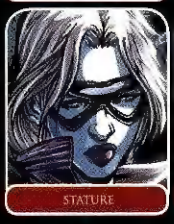
YOUNG AVENGERS

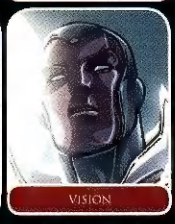
HAWKEYE

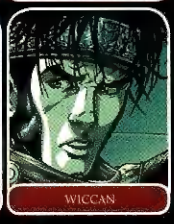
HULKLING

PATRIOT

SPEED


STATURE


VISION


WICCAN

There was a time when I thought Captain America saw eye to eye with me on the issue of minors engaging in super hero activity. The last time I can remember us agreeing on it was when we took down the would-be teen super heroes calling themselves the Young Avengers. Comprised mostly of teenagers with one connection or another to the Avengers, this group is everything I don't want to see happen again, despite their good intentions. They're untrained loose cannons, and nowhere near ready to be doing the things they do.

It was only a few minutes after we first confronted them that Cap and I learned that one of their members, Iron Lad, was a younger version of our enemy Kang the Conqueror. Of course, that meant Kang himself would show up sooner or later, and of course, he did. We nearly lost that one, but the kids came through, mostly by fluke. Every time we tried to disband them afterwards, they just kept popping back up, and almost instigated another Kree-Skrull War before we intervened.

Unfortunately, Cap has most recently seen fit to utilize these adolescents in his misguided crusade against us. After weeks of trying to put the Young Avengers out of commission, he abducts them from S.H.I.E.L.D. protection and then sticks them out there on the front lines. What the hell is wrong with him? After what happened to Bucky, this is the last thing I would expect him to do. He just isn't the man I thought I knew.

Every time I encounter these kids, they have added new members to their roster. As it stands, the current group appears to consist of the following:

Patriot (Elijah "Eli" Bradley) — The leader of the team. Bradley has a lot of history, some I hope to be able to use to our advantage. His grandfather is Isaiah Bradley, whom Eli will let everyone who'll listen know was Captain America before Captain America. He idolizes the old man. I wish Isaiah still had his mental capacities, because he would be the key to talking Eli out of this. I'm not sure about the current status of Eli's relationship with his uncle Josiah, but with Rhodey having allied with Josiah in the past, perhaps we can get him to talk some sense into his nephew.

Hawkeye (Kate Bishop) — The only non-powered member of the group, but an excellent marksman. She appropriated the name, but I'm still not comfortable with it. I already saw one Hawkeye die, and I don't want to see another do so.

Hulkling (Dorrek VIII / Teddy Altman) — A Kree/Skrull hybrid, and son of one of our greatest allies, the late Captain Mar-Vell, this is a being that could unite half the universe, but instead runs around town trying to fight battles he's not ready for.

Stature (Cassandra "Cassie" Lang) — The daughter of our late teammate Ant-Man (Scott Lang), it was, I suppose, an eventuality that she would one day enter the world of superheroes. I was prepared for it, but it's just too soon. She's too young, and I feel it's my duty as Scott's friend to get her out of this chaos. She has virtually no experience with her size-changing powers, and it's going to get her or someone else hurt.

Wiccan (Billy Kaplan) and Speed (Thomas Sheperd) — I don't know what to make of these apparent twin brothers. A spellcaster and a speedster, respectively, the Super-Skrull was convinced that these were the children of Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch, whose souls were cast off, somehow through time, during Mephisto's manipulations of her. If these truly are her children, then everything we've gone through in the last few months, the hells that we've seen, were for nothing. But I can't think about that right now, we have more pressing matters to attend to. Of all the members, Sheperd is the most dangerous. He already accidentally blew up his school and intentionally took down part of the U.N. Building in New York. He's another Stamford waiting to happen.

Vision — An amalgamation of the armor and brain patterns of Iron Lad (who I originally thought may be the same alternate universe version of me who briefly served as my replacement) with the original Vision's programming mixed in, he's possibly the most dangerous of the lot. Somewhere in there, he has Ultron's programming, Kang's brain, and entirely too much classified Avengers data. When we have to take him down, I can only assure myself that the original Vision, the real Vision, is long gone.

Most recently, S.H.I.E.L.D. has spotted them in Los Angeles, almost certainly getting involved in something they shouldn't.

CIVIL WAR FILES APPENDIX

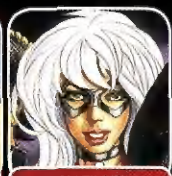
AEGIS
(TREY JASON ROLLINS)
NEW WARRIORS
FUGITIVE

ARANA
(ANYA CORAZON)
REGISTERED

BANTAM
(ROBERTO VALASQUEZ)
REGISTERED?
KILLED IN ACTION

BATTLESTAR
(ISAIAH HUSKINS)
UNCAPTURED

BIG BERTHA
(ASHLEY CRAWFORD)
GREAT LAKES CHAMPIONS
REGISTERED



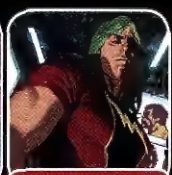
BLACK CAT
(FELICIA HARDY)
HEROES FOR HIRE
REGISTERED

BLACK WIDOW
(NATASHA ROMANOVA)
AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

CLOAK & DAGGER
(TYRONE JOHNSON
& TANDY BOWEN)
FUGITIVES

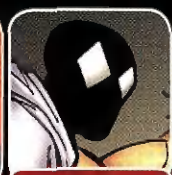
COLDBLOOD 7
(ERIC SWISS)
INCARCERATED

DIGITEK
(EDWARD BRYANT)
ESCAPEE

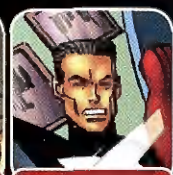


DOC SAMSON
(LEONARD SAMSON)
AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

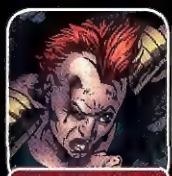
DOCTOR STRANGE
(STEPHEN STRANGE)
UNREGISTERED (POST-
HUMAN EXEMPTION)



DOORMAN
(DEMARR DAVIS)
GREAT LAKES CHAMPIONS
REGISTERED



FLATMAN
(VAL VENTURA)
GREAT LAKES CHAMPIONS
REGISTERED



GLADIATRIX
(LAURA KRAVCHUK)
INCARCERATED

HELLCAT
(PATSY WALKER)
DEFENDERS
REGISTERED

HULK
(ROBERT BRUCE BANNER)
DEFENDERS
FUGITIVE

HUMBUG
(BUCK METTY)
HEROES FOR HIRE
REGISTERED

JOHN JAMESON
REGISTERED

MERCEDES "MISTY" KNIGHT
HEROES FOR HIRE
REGISTERED

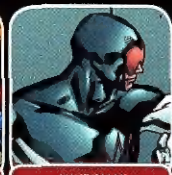
LECTRONN
(TOMMY SAMUELS)
INCARCERATED

LIGHTBRIGHT
(URAN MAHD)
INCARCERATED

LIVING MUMMY
(N'KANTU)
INCARCERATED

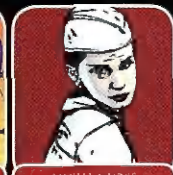
MARVEL BOY
(NOH-VARR)
INCARCERATED

MISTER IMMORTAL
(CRAIG HOLLIS)
GREAT LAKES CHAMPIONS
REGISTERED



MICROMAX
(SCOTT WRIGHT)
AGENT OF MI-13/S.H.I.E.L.D.

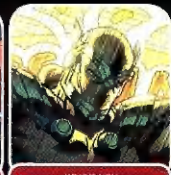
NETWORK
(UNREVEALED)
INCARCERATED



NIGHT NURSE
(UNREVEALED)
FUGITIVE

NIGHTHAWK
(KYLE RICHMOND)
DEFENDERS
F.A.I.T.H.

PHONE RANGER
(AXL BELL)
INCARCERATED



PRODIGY
(RITCHIE GILMORE)
SLINGERS
INCARCERATED

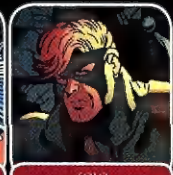
PROWLER
(HOBIE BROWN)
INCARCERATED

SABRA
(RUTH BAT-SERPAH)
AGENT OF MOSSAD/
S.H.I.E.L.D.

SHANG-CHI
HEROES FOR HIRE
REGISTERED

SHROUD
(MAXIMILLIAN QUINCY
COOLRIDGE)
FUGITIVE

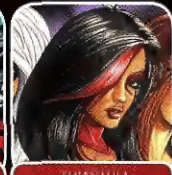
SILVERCLAW
(MARIA DE GUADALUPE
SANTIAGO)
INCARCERATED



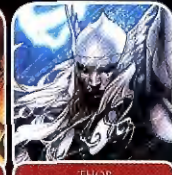
SOLO
(JAMES BOURNE)
INCARCERATED

SQUIRREL GIRL
(DOREEN GREEN)
GREAT LAKES CHAMPIONS
REGISTERED

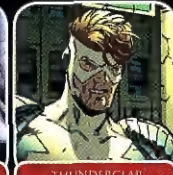
STINGRAY
(WALTER NEWELL)
UNREGISTERED



TABAN LULA
(MARIA VASQUEZ)
HEROES FOR HIRE
REGISTERED



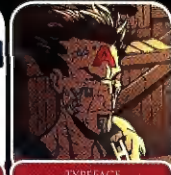
THOR
AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.



THUNDERCLAP
(STANLEY GEORGE JOHNSON)
FUGITIVE

TIGRA
(GRETTA NELSON)
AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

TWO-GUN KID
(MATTHEW HAWK)
REGISTERED



TYPEFACE
(GORDON THOMAS)
INCARCERATED

WASP
(JANET VAN DYNE)
AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

WITHSTREAK
(TAMARA BOWDEN)
INCARCERATED

COLLEEN WING
HEROES FOR HIRE
REGISTERED

WONDER MAN
(SIMON WILLIAMS)
AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR CHECKLIST

FEBRUARY
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #529

MARCH
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #530
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #536
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI SPECIAL

APRIL
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #531
- ☐ CIVIL WAR OPENING SHOT SKETCHBOOK
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #537

MAY
- ☐ **CIVIL WAR #1**
- ☐ MARVEL SPOTLIGHT: MILLAR/MCNIVEN
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #532
- ☐ SHE-HULK #8
- ☐ WOLVERINE #42

JUNE
- ☐ **CIVIL WAR #2**
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #1
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #2
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #533
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #538
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS #21
- ☐ THUNDERBOLTS #103
- ☐ WOLVERINE #43
- ☐ X-FACTOR #8

JULY
- ☐ **CIVIL WAR #3**
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #3
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #4
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: X-MEN #1
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: YOUNG AVENGERS & RUNAWAYS #1
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #534
- ☐ BLACK PANTHER #18
- ☐ CABLE & DEADPOOL #30
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #539
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS #22
- ☐ THUNDERBOLTS #104
- ☐ WOLVERINE #44
- ☐ X-FACTOR #9

AUGUST
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #5
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: X-MEN #2
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: YOUNG AVENGERS & RUNAWAYS #2
- ☐ CABLE & DEADPOOL #31
- ☐ HEROES FOR HIRE #1
- ☐ MS. MARVEL #6
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS #23
- ☐ THUNDERBOLTS #105
- ☐ WOLVERINE #45

SEPTEMBER
- ☐ **CIVIL WAR #4**
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FILES
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #6
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: X-MEN #3
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: YOUNG AVENGERS & RUNAWAYS #3

SEPTEMBER (CONTINUED)
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #535
- ☐ CABLE & DEADPOOL #32
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #22
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #540
- ☐ HEROES FOR HIRE #2
- ☐ MS. MARVEL #7
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS #24
- ☐ WOLVERINE #46

OCTOBER
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: CHOOSING SIDES (One-Shot)
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #7
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: X-MEN #4
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: YOUNG AVENGERS & RUNAWAYS #4
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #23
- ☐ HEROES FOR HIRE #3
- ☐ IRON MAN #13
- ☐ MS. MARVEL #8
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS #25
- ☐ WOLVERINE #47

NOVEMBER
- ☐ **CIVIL WAR #5**
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #8
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #536
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #24
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #541
- ☐ IRON MAN #14
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #7 (Casualties of War)
- ☐ PUNISHER: WAR JOURNAL #1
- ☐ WOLVERINE #48

DECEMBER
- ☐ **CIVIL WAR #6**
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #9
- ☐ BLACK PANTHER #23
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: WAR CRIMES (One-Shot)
- ☐ IRON MAN/CAPTAIN AMERICA SPECIAL (Casualties of War)
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #8 (Casualties of War)
- ☐ PUNISHER: WAR JOURNAL #2
- ☐ WINTER SOLDIER: WINTER KILLS (Casualties of War)

JANUARY 2007
- ☐ **CIVIL WAR #7**
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #537
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #538
- ☐ BLACK PANTHER #24
- ☐ BLADE #5 (Casualties of War)
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #10
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #542
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #543
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #9 (Casualties of War)
- ☐ PUNISHER: WAR JOURNAL #3

FEBRUARY 2007
- ☐ CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #11
- ☐ CIVIL WAR: BATTLE DAMAGE REPORT
- ☐ BLACK PANTHER #25

BLASTAAR